

Leaders offer stark election choice

Thatcher attack on 'party of the past'

● Mrs Thatcher, returning from the Venice summit, said that Britain faced the starkest election choice ever — between a country willing to defend itself and one on the brink of surrender.

● She secured from the summit the election boost she sought — an effective repudiation by world leaders of the non-nuclear defence policy of the Labour Party.

● Mr Kinnock said the Tories had undermined the capacity of families to care for their children, lengthened hospital waiting lists and made schooling increasingly dependent on fund-raising (Page 5).

● Mr Denis Healey swore at a television presenter and stormed from a TV-am studio after questions about an operation on his wife at a private hospital.

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Bitter exchanges marked the closing stages of the election campaign yesterday with the leaders of the two big parties both claiming to be the hope for Britain's future.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher returned from the economic summit in Venice to claim that Britain had to make its starkest election choice ever, between a country willing to defend itself and one on the brink of surrender.

Labour would destroy prosperity and bring a "strife-torn, strike-ridden, divided society".

She told a rally at Harrogate that Labour was a party of the

past which would condemn the present generation and their children to "a second-class life in a third-class country".

Mr Neil Kinnock, equally vehement, spent yesterday deriding Tory claims to be the party of the family and said that the Conservatives offered the young only unemployment, under-investment in education and shortages in training.

Voters had to ask themselves: "Am I prepared to offer the young an environment that is abused and endangered, the tensions between rich and poor?"

He told a rally in Leeds that future generations needed a country not disabled by mass unemployment, not fractured by weak, partial and backward health and education systems.

Mrs Thatcher's government had not shown the commitment to future generations shown by every previous government since 1945.

The parties, battling for the votes of the estimated eight million electors who are still undecided, yesterday revealed

a sharp divergence in their tactics in the last 48 hours of an increasingly bitter election.

Labour continued to pitch for the moral high ground, launching a detailed onslaught against the Government's policy towards the family, while the Conservatives con-

ELECTION '87

On election day 1979 MORI's final poll predicted the outcome of the party battle accurate to within 1 per cent of the actual result. On election day 1983 MORI predicted exactly the composition of the new Parliament. Tomorrow, on election day 1987, MORI's final poll will be published exclusively in *The Times*.

Election reports 5-7
Spectrum 8
Conor Cruise O'Brien 16
Leading articles 17

centrated on what they saw as the threat to taxpayers posed by Labour's spending plans.

The leaders of the SDP and the Liberals appealed once more to what they called the "thoughtful voters", saying that only the election of a substantial block of Alliance

MPs could stop Mrs Thatcher enjoying "unfettered power" once again.

The latest opinion poll by Marplan, conducted yesterday for the *Today* newspaper, measured support for the parties as unchanged in the last week, with the Conservatives on 43 per cent, Labour on 35 per cent and the Alliance on 21. It interviewed 1,086 voters.

Such figures, repeated on a uniform swing tomorrow, would see the Conservatives returned with a majority of 50.

A poll by Gallup for today's *Daily Telegraph* measures support at Conservatives 41 per cent, Labour 34 per cent and Alliance 23.5 per cent.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, opened hostilities yesterday by charging that Labour had been forced to admit during the campaign that it would increase taxation by at least £11.5 billion.

For Labour, Mr Kinnock and Mr Roy Hattersley, its economic spokesman, maintained that no-one earning below £500 a week would suffer.

Healey swears in TV clash

By Mark Ellis

Mr Denis Healey swore at a television presenter, stormed out of a studio and had an angry confrontation with programme journalists yesterday.

The clash came after he was questioned about an operation his wife underwent at a private hospital.

The outburst by Labour's shadow Foreign Secretary began on air and continued off-screen after Miss Ann Diamond, the TV-am presenter, questioned him about a report in *The Sun* concerning his wife's private hip operation.

He asked Miss Diamond, who is seven months pregnant: "Where are you having your baby, Anne?" and when she said she was not a politician the irate Mr Healey retorted: "Yes, but my wife is not a politician".

During a commercial break he turned to Miss Diamond and, within earshot of Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Defence Secretary, said to her: "You shit".

As Mr Healey left the studio he confronted Mr Adam Bolton, the programme's political editor and a producer and had a heated exchange about the interview while poking and, according to TV-am, punching one of them in the chest.

Continued on page 28, col 1



Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan discussing major world issues in the garden of Hotel Cipriani in Venice yesterday.

Summit boost for Prime Minister

From Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent, Venice

Mrs Thatcher goes into the final day of the election campaign today able to claim overwhelming backing from the leading Western nations for her defence and economic policies.

She received the big electoral boost for which she had planned when she set the election date by securing from the leaders of the United States, Japan, Canada, France, Italy and West Germany an effective repudiation of the non-nuclear defence policy of the Labour Party.

As she left Venice yesterday lunchtime, after just 18 hours

at the summit, she declared that the economic strategy which she had pursued for eight years had now become the "orthodox" policy of the West.

Shortly before leaving the summit island of San Giorgio di Maggiore after a three-hour discussion on the world's economy Mrs Thatcher said that her truncated trip had been "absolutely vital".

Shrugging off suggestions that it was all an electioneering exercise, Mrs Thatcher said that she was representing her country as she had done

Continued on page 28, col 3

Shares at record high

The pound and shares rose strongly yesterday as investors became increasingly confident of a Conservative victory.

Investors chased share prices to their highest levels ever. Almost £6 billion was added to the value of quoted shares taking the amount added to the equity market since the

election was announced to £35.95 billion.

Prices closed slightly below their best levels of the day but the FT index of top 30 shares enjoyed its biggest ever one-day rise, closing 34.1 higher at an all-time high of 1,761.3.

Market report, page 30

Soviet war of attrition on the Chernobyl 'front'

From Christopher Walker, Chernobyl

Plagued with radiation hotspots more than 100 times the level to be found only a few miles away and the centre of a hazardous clean-up operation involving thousands of uniformed Soviet troops in white masks, the Chernobyl plant still resembles a battleground nearly 14 months after the world's worst nuclear accident.

Once a proud part of the Ukraine's verdant countryside, the crippled station now has the eerie appearance of a semi-desert. Contaminated forest and a thick layer of top soil, for more than a mile on every side, have been stripped and buried in concrete-lined pits, while those pine trees still standing on the distant approaches are

withered, burnt-looking and ominously dead.

This week, for the first time since the explosion on April 26, 1986, a handful of Western reporters was permitted access to inspect the rescue work. The continuing dangers were quickly brought home when we were required to sign special forms, and warned never to open bus windows or smoke in the 18-mile exclusion zone surrounding the plant. We were also ordered never to step onto roadside verges, nor to drink water, and we had to wear dark glasses "if the sun shines brightly" (which it did).

In the shadow of the giant concrete tomb now encasing the crippled number four reactor, I watched as Mr Alexander Kovlenko, a Soviet expert with a red geiger counter, took a

ground reading of a disturbing 12.8 milliroentgen, compared with 0.1 in the town of Chernobyl, 16 kilometres away, and 0.02 in Kiev, 90 miles to the south. Most of the 10 correspondents present resolved to later throw away their shoes, however smart.

Loud and mawkish Soviet pop music was blasting from loudspeakers at the plant (where staff work for 15 days before taking an equivalent break at a safe distance away), in the words of one Soviet official, "to try to keep everyone relaxed". Close to a decontaminated statue of Lenin at the main entrance was a large poster stating incongruously in Russian "no to nuclear madness". All around the sand poured in tens of thousands of tons over the stripped earth was being churned to mud by fleets of military

water-sprayers fighting the never-ending war against radioactive dust (known locally as "the enemy").

Inside the control room of one of the two reactors now back in operation, it suddenly became possible to grasp the situation as it occurred in the early hours of April 26 in a similar room not far away. Although rigid new safety procedures have been introduced since, I was surprised at the lack of concern shown when two or three visitors lost their special protective footwear because it did not fit.

The tension of those working inside the 18-mile dead zone — 10,000 of them Army reservists above the age of 35 — contrasted strongly with the unsuccessful attempts of the

Continued on page 28, col 1



Back home in Britain: Edward Chaplin, the diplomat abducted by the Revolutionary Guard in Iran, arriving at Heathrow airport yesterday with his wife Nicola, and his children Stephanie, aged three, and Thomas, aged nine weeks. Report, page 3

New strategy agreed in US-Soviet summit 'this year'

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, Venice

The Venice economic summit yesterday adopted strengthened measures against terrorism only hours after attacks on the British and American embassies in Rome.

Amid a heightened security alert, the leaders met in a monastery library on the Venetian island of San Giorgio Maggiore.

While two Italian frigates mounted guard and helicopters hovered overhead, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, President Reagan and Mitterrand, Chancellor Kohl, Prime Minister Nakasone and Mulroney, and Italy's interim leader, Senator Amintore Fanfani, said they "resolutely condemned" all forms of terrorism.

New anti-terrorist measures included an agreement to block all flights to and from any country which failed to prosecute or extradite terrorists responsible for any major offence involving aircraft. This greatly extends a 1978 agreement which covered only hijacking.

British sources said another new element was that for the first time in 13 economic summits all nations agreed to make no concessions to terrorists.

Shortly before the seven leaders held their opening session, a car bomb and five rocket-launched grenades cau-

sed damage but no injuries in the Italian capital.

A police spokesman said that the embassy attacks were believed to be linked to the summit. A rented car containing an estimated 4½ lbs of TNT exploded near the back entrance of the American Embassy.

At the same time four home-made grenades were fired, from primitively constructed launchers, hitting the Washington — An Iranian destroyer challenged the SS Patriot as it was being escorted by the guided missile destroyer USS *Coryngam* in the Strait of Hormuz last Friday, but the two vessels proceeded without incident, the Pentagon said yesterday.

A fifth grenade aimed at the British Embassy half a mile away fell into an ornamental pond and exploded without causing damage. Both attacks took place during the Rome rush hour, but the only casualty was a bus passenger who was treated for shock. Police found one of the grenade launchers in an hotel room.

Home-made grenades were used in an attack during the last economic summit 13 months ago in Tokyo. A Japanese group using the

name "Core Faction" claimed responsibility.

Unconfirmed reports yesterday said that Rome police were seeking an Asian man travelling on a Canadian passport.

President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher were told of the attacks just before meeting at the President's hotel.

The summit also adopted statements on East-West relations, arms control and the Persian Gulf.

The seven welcomed prospects for an East-West nuclear arms reduction treaty, setting the stage for the Nato foreign ministers to give formal approval to the American negotiating position on Thursday.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, is now expected to attend part of the meeting in Reykjavik, even though it clashes with the election. It had been thought that he would miss it.

The seven called for renewed efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war and urged the adoption of "just and effective measures by the United Nations Security Council". This was an implicit reference to efforts to pass a Security Council resolution calling for a mandatory ban on arms sales to the belligerents.

Communiqués, page 10
Useful step, page 29

Terrorist posed as security guard

By Nicholas Beeston and Stewart Tendler

Scotland Yard detectives suspect that a terrorist posing as an Iran Air security guard slipped into London last summer to carry out the bomb attack in Kensington which killed a member of a leading anti-Khomeini family.

According to police and Iranian exile sources, the Iranian caught a flight for Tehran from Heathrow airport a few hours after the bombing of a shop in Kensington High Street last August. The blast killed Bijan Fazeli, aged 22, as he worked in the basement of his father's shop.

After the bombing the Yard's anti-terrorist branch were alerted to an Iranian who had stayed overnight in a small, cheap hotel in west London close to the bomb scene. The man vanished on the day of the attack leaving items of clothing behind.

Police searched the room and a pair of jeans examined

by police scientists were found to have traces of explosive.

A spokesman for the Iranian embassy said yesterday that the mission had not been contacted by the police and there was no information on the explosion.

● Watch on firm: Britain's security authorities are expected to increase their surveillance of an Iranian oil company headquarters in London which is alleged to be the centre for European arms exports to Tehran (Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, writes).

There has been continued interest in the activities of the National Iranian Oil Corporation in Victoria Street, Westminster, although Whitehall sources emphasized yesterday that there was no evidence that the company was engaged in anything which breached British laws. It employs about 300 people.

IN PART 2 Drugs dispute

An argument over drug testing at this year's Wimbledon tennis tournament means the tests will probably not be made.

Page 56

TIMES FOCUS

Two Special Reports look at private health in Britain and world aerospace
World aerospace, pages 20-23
Private health, pages 35-39

Portfolio

● The £4,000 prize in yesterday's *Times* Portfolio Gold competition was won by Mr J.A. Henderson of Shrewton, Wiltshire. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 33.

INDEX

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Home News | 2-3 |
| Election | 5-7 |
| Spectrum | 10-14 |
| Overseas | 25-34 |
| Business | 32-56 |
| Sport | 52-56 |
| Arts | 24 |
| Births, deaths, marriages | 19 |
| City Diary | 31 |
| Court | 18 |
| Crème de la Crème | 47-51 |
| Crosswords | 26, 28 |
| Diary | 16 |
| Entertainment | 26 |
| Features | 16-26 |
| Information | 51 |
| Law Report | 26 |
| Leading articles | 17 |
| Letters | 17 |
| Media | 40-42 |
| Obituary | 18 |
| Property | 43-47 |
| Sale Room | 18 |
| Science | 27 |
| TV & Radio | 27 |
| Weather | 28 |

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NEWS SUMMARY

Officers' fears on prison suicides

The Prison Officers' Association expressed concern yesterday about the Home Office attitude towards suicides in jail.

The association is objecting to a proposal which, it alleges, might leave female patients in the hospital at Drake Hall Women's Prison, Staffordshire, unsupervised at night. The Prison Department was putting economic considerations first, the association said.

The governor, Mr Ray Mitchell, had suggested to the local branch of the association that an electronic paging system be installed to enable patients to call on staff elsewhere in the prison. Mr Mitchell had also suggested that a "trusted" prisoner could be in the hospital at night to aid supervision.

The Home Office said last night that the hospital contained on average one patient. There was a night nursing sister on duty, but she might be called away to the main prison for a short period.

Couriers link up Satanist plea fails

High speed courier services operated by 12 national post offices are to be linked in a new company called Express Mail Services, based at Brussels airport.

The Post Office said a single international banner, rather than a collection of individual names, will make it easier to promote their services.

Initial participants will be Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the Irish Republic, Finland, France, Norway, The Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, the US and West Germany.

Judge's acid test

An American company's lemon-shaped juice containers were yesterday banned from British shops by a High Court judge because they are too like the British plastic lemon brand, Jif.

Mr Justice Walton said there was evidence that everyone associated the squeeze containers, which made first class water pistols when empty, with Jif, made by Reckitt & Colman.

The rival lemon, produced by Borden Inc, was not sufficiently distinctive to distinguish it from Jif. There was also fraudulent intent by its manufacturers, he said.

Law Report, page 51

Doctor wins plea

Dr Jennifer Colman-Archer (right), struck off by the General Medical Council for being abusive in hospital, had two sentences, for assault and using violent and indecent behaviour, reduced at Norwich Crown Court yesterday. She had been fined with costs.

It was disclosed that she was suffering from brain damage, said to have been sustained in a road accident.

Dr Colman-Archer, of Dereham, Norfolk, was given a two-year conditional discharge.

Mass grave cleared

Work to remove more than 150 bodies discovered in a mass grave beneath a Southern Railway arch between London Bridge and Charing Cross was completed yesterday.

The remains of men, women and children, who died at least 150 years ago, were discovered last month in what was believed to have been a common burial ground in Ewer Street, Southwark.

British Rail Properties, involved in an industrial development of the site, had to apply to the Home Office for a licence to remove the bodies to a cemetery.

Figures on ferry stability questioned

By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

Doubts were cast yesterday on whether masters of cross-channel ferries were carrying out a calculation for determining a ship's stability.

The calculation would determine how a ship would react if damaged in a collision or if water got into the vehicle deck.

The issue was raised at the hearing into the loss of the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry, which is being con-

ducted in London by Mr Justice Sheen.

One of the many measures used for calculating the stability of ships is the KG, which is a mathematical means of assessing the distance between the keel and the centre of gravity.

At the end of yesterday's hearing Mr Justice Sheen asked a witness from the Department of Transport if ships were capable of calculating their KG.

Mr Roger Taggart, a principal ship surveyor in the

Department of Transport, initially said it would be "unwise to give an answer".

The judge said: "I am only asking you as to your view of what is happening today".

It had earlier emerged that Townsend Thoresen had to tighten their procedures, and Mr Taggart said if one company had to do so, "it is fair to assume that similar action is needed by other companies".

Mr Justice Sheen pressed him further, asking: "Do you think they are not ascertaining their KG today?"

"I suspect they may not be", Mr Taggart said.

Masters have other methods of assessing stability without calculating the KG. This involves using a so-called stability book, with which every ship is provided. From this masters can check the stability of the ship provided they know what cargo, fuel and other materials they are carrying.

During the inquiry doubts have arisen about the reliability of these assessments because of the lack of precision in the masters' informa-

tion about cargo and other materials.

Townsend Thoresen has accepted limitations in the amount of cargo, fuel and water carried in the Spirit of Free Enterprise and the Pride of Free Enterprise, sister ships of the Herald, as an interim measure because of a disagreement over stability calculations.

Until this is sorted out the company has decided to err on the side of caution.

The inquiry continues today.

Rape is worse than murder, says judge

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Another judge yesterday criticized courts over soft sentences for rape which he described as a crime "worse than murder".

Judge David, the senior circuit judge for Chester and north Wales, said he agreed that judges had been out of step with public opinion, which "regards rape as one of the most dreadful crimes any man can commit".

Nor could he dissent from the view that rape was worse than murder. "It is time we realized how serious it is,"

Judge David's comments came the day after the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, criticized sentences of three and five years imposed on two men involved in the Ealing vicarage rape as "almost certainly too low".

Judge David was speaking at Mold Crown Court during the trial of a man from Aberystwyth, Clwyd, found guilty of raping his stepdaughter regularly when she was between 15 and 18, and indecent offences with her when she was 12. Sentence was adjourned until today.

The girl's mother was said to have known her husband was having sexual intercourse with her daughter and that he was obsessed with the girl but did nothing about it.

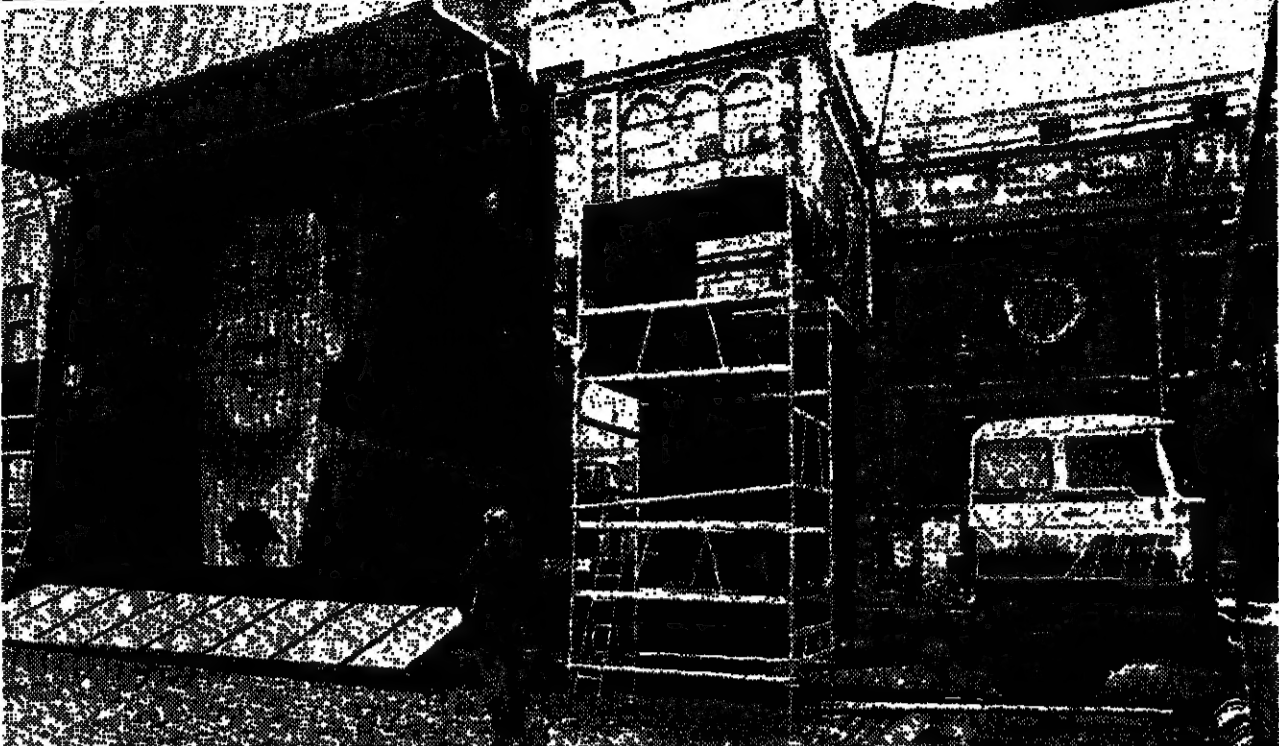
She and her husband obtained the contraceptive pill for her when she was 15. The couple allegedly told the doctor the girl had a boyfriend.

The defendant denied two indecency charges and three rape charges. One of the charges of raping the girl when 14 was dismissed on the judge's direction.

A child molester was released by a judge yesterday and told to control himself.

At Southwark Crown Court Judge Clarkson, QC, told Richard Green, aged 27, who has nine convictions for sexual offences against young girls, that he would take an "exceptional course" because he had not committed any offences for almost a year.

Green, of Steven Crescent, Harrow, north-west London, admitted two offences of outraging public decency in June last year and was sentenced to 18 months jail suspended for two years.



A screen test preparing the way for Placido Domingo, the opera singer, to be heard and watched free in the Covent Garden piazza, central London, last night during a performance of *La Bohème*, by Puccini, at the Royal Opera House. It was expected that there would be an audience of about 4,000 in front of the 20ft by 26ft electronic screen, which cost £45,000. The live relay, said to be possible in all weathers, is to be repeated on Friday (Photograph: Storm Stanley).

Smithfield firm in dispute says it will cease trading

By Staff Reporters

The company at the centre of a dispute over restrictive union practices at Smithfield announced last night it would cease trading at the market after the breakdown of more than four hours of talks with the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Earlier yesterday the first consignment of meat, moved by non-union labour in more than a half-century was taken out of the market by staff employed by Allied Meat Importers.

Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the TGWU, which is fighting to maintain its monopoly on the appointment of workers, described AMI's decision as "provocative".

But the union, anxious to avoid a dispute over the archaic working practices on the eve of the general election, opted to call in Acas rather than invoke the strike action which the porters have voted overwhelmingly to support.

After the meeting at AMI's north London headquarters last night, the company's managing director, Mr Ove Nielsen, said that trading at Smithfield would resume only when agreement with the

London's Smithfield meat market is this week witnessing the kind of dispute which is rapidly becoming obsolete. Should unions still have the right to choose the workforce - especially when new technology has made their working practices out of date?

union was reached. Behind the apparent climbdown is believed to be the fear that AMI's distribution network in Britain could be crippled in any official dispute with the transport union.

Employers at the market, represented by the Tenants' Association, will meet this morning to decide their next move in a dispute which has shut AMI's Smithfield outlet for almost a month and cost the company, owned by the Botswana Meat Commission, more than £500,000 in lost turnover.

AMI is refusing to take on a porter nominated by the TGWU and is insisting on having a choice of union porters. The City of London Corporation has given a warning that it will not go ahead with a £15 million refurbishment scheme until the current restrictive practices end.

Two years of negotiations between the traders and the union have failed to resolve the problem and, yesterday,

from stalls back on to lorries.

Bummarces' badges are highly prized and, on retirement, one man hands on his badge through a system of patronage.

Employers say that one or two men with a forklift truck could do all the jobs now done by five or six.

Earnings are reported to be as high as £600 a week, but because much of Smithfield's work is completed early in the day many workers are free to do other jobs, such as cab driving.

Union power has been absolute. It is prohibited by the union to unload a lorry after 5am. This made sense in the days before refrigeration, but the time meat leaves central London in refrigerated lorries makes little difference now.

In the days of extreme union power employers found themselves doing nothing more than rubber-stamping the decisions of local shop stewards, especially in industries where "perishable" items were involved.

New technology and tougher managements have brought enormous change.

Strikes lengthen passport delays

By Tim Jones

Businessmen and holiday-makers were last night warned that they face a delay of up to 16 weeks before their passports can be renewed.

The warning came as more than 100,000 members of Britain's two largest Civil Service unions ended 48 hours of industrial action aimed at forcing the Government to improve its 4.5 per cent pay offer.

The Civil and Public Services Association and the Society of Civil and Public Servants said that because of undermanning and high staff turnover, delays would exceed the present level of 10 weeks.

The unions, which are demanding increases of 15 per cent or £20 a week, intend to follow up their national stoppage with a series of 24 hour regional strikes.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Paymaster General, has already said the demand would fuel inflation and to concede it would be "unthinkable".

Mr Neil Kinnock has promised that, if elected, he will bring a swift end to the dispute by dealing with "the roots of the problem".

After trying to cope with considerable chaos on Monday, caused by the strike of assistant air traffic controllers, British Airways said its services were returning to normal and advised passengers to "turn up and take off".

In a separate development, the society plans to ballot members at the National Audit Office on a programme of industrial action.

The union claims that the action could seriously disrupt the Government's ability to control the expenditure of its departments.

The ballot decision comes after the rejection of a pay deal under which audit staff based in London would have received rises of 8 per cent and those in the regions 6 per cent.

Mr Bob Lushwaite, chairman of the branch, said: "This is the first time that members of the National Audit Office have ever threatened industrial action."

It shows the level of dissatisfaction over management's divisive offer. They want to see a more even handed and fair approach."

Judge will settle pit unions row

A High Court judge will be asked today to settle a dispute between the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and the National Union of Mineworkers about the control of a multi-million pound coalfield charity in Nottinghamshire.

Mr Justice Walton was told yesterday that since the 1984 miners' strike, which led to the formation of the UDM, management committees from the two unions had claimed control of the Ollerton and Bevercotes Miners' Welfare Institute.

Mr John Cherryman, QC, for two British Coal nominated trustees, said that it had led to a breakdown in its management, putting at risk its assets and causing the interests of beneficiaries to be "gravely prejudiced". In effect, the NUM committee was in control, although it represented only 30 per cent of workers in the area.

UDM members did not use it very much, if at all. Mr Cherryman said. "The atmosphere is unpleasant and intimidatory, which arose during the conflicts of the coal strike and still continues".

The British Coal trustees intended to seek the appointment of a receiver to manage its affairs until a court decided its future.

But Mr Cherryman announced that a last minute scheme for its future management had been devised which would resolve satisfactorily the issues and put the institute on a fair and proper footing.

Mr Gavin Lightman, QC, for the NUM appointed trustees, Mr Graham King and the Clydesdale Labour Party candidate, Mr James Hood, and the NUM committee, said they accepted the unsatisfactory description of the present state of affairs.

Dispute on control of police image

By Craig Seton

Labour councillors who plan to take control of the public image of West Midlands police are causing alarm among senior officers.

The Labour-controlled police authority has created a new, £22,000 a year position for an independent head of the force's public relations.

At present the position is held by Supt Martin Burton, who is answerable to the chief constable, but the police authority has insisted that his successor should be appointed by and be answerable to it.

Senior officers claim that the authority's plans are tantamount to "political control" of its crucial public profile.

Mr Geoffrey Dear, Chief Constable of the West Midlands, told *The Times* yesterday: "I am concerned that operational policing could be given a political flavour".

Mr Philip Richards, the Labour chairman of the police authority, which is interviewing candidates, denied that he was seeking control of the force's appointments.

Search for lake killer cut back

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Reporter

Police have scaled down the investigation into the death of Shani Warren, the woman whose body was found in a lake in Buckinghamshire two months ago, because of a shortage of manpower.

Thames Valley Police, the largest force in the country, reduced the number of officers involved last month from nearly 100 to 40, but yesterday it would not say how many were still on the case.

Yesterday an inquest into the death of Miss Warren, aged 26, of Neville Close, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, was opened and adjourned for four weeks at High Wycombe. It was told that she died from drowning.

Mr John Roberts, the South Buckinghamshire coroner, released the body.

Miss Warren's funeral will be held at St James's Church, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, at 2pm on Monday.

Day-after pregnancy test on the way

By Thomson Prentice,
Science Correspondent

A simple technique that may eventually allow women to discover if they are pregnant just one day after conception has been developed by Australian researchers.

The technique detects a hormone-like substance called platelet activating factor (PAF), which is known to be released by the human embryo within hours of embryonic formation.

Scientists at a Sydney hospital have been in negotiation with ICI Australia, a subsidiary of the multinational pharmaceutical organization, which plans to develop and market kits based on the technique.

However, the pregnancy test kit is to be produced initially for use in research laboratories.

Biological tests to detect PAF have existed for some time but in a complicated form, Dr Brian Baldo, one of the researchers, said.

The new test involved only a few steps and its use did not require specialist knowledge.

Development of a kit for more general use, such as in hospitals and clinics, would have enormous market potential, but required more research, he said.

At present, pregnancy cannot be detected by routine testing until two to three weeks after conception.

Dr Chris O'Neill, another researcher at the Kolling Institute, discovered five years ago that PAF was released

animals has shown that the production of the chemical was necessary for the establishment of pregnancy.

If it went well, Dr O'Neill said he would be able to indicate whether the technique would provide the basis for an early pregnancy test in humans before the end of the year.

Research on PAF could also lead to new diagnostic techniques for heart disease, stomach ulcers, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis and other conditions with which the substance is associated.

THE WINES OF SPAIN
JUST WAITING TO BE TASTED.

Campo Nuevo - Navarra. The red is soft, round and quite full with a pleasant warmth. The white is clean, dry, fresh, full and fruity, an excellent wine for summer. £2.19

Val de Fois - Penedes Novell 1986. This white wine has a pleasant "biscuity" nose, is fresh and clean in taste and has an almost peachy flavour to it. £2.49

Raimat Sparkling Chardonnay. This beautiful, refreshing dry sparkling wine has immense charm and a lovely crisp flavour. It is of the same Chardonnay grape family as is used in Champagne and White Burgundy. £4.99

Senorio de Los Llanos 1981 - Valdepeñas. This red is a typical example having a lovely bouquet which shows a fruity character with a hint of oak. Soft round and fullish it has some class and is a very enjoyable "mordant" wine. £2.49

Vina Santa Elena - La Mancha. This white wine from middle Spain is quite dry with an attractive bouquet. Clean and very refreshing when chilled. £1.99

WINES FROM SPAIN

THE VICTORIA WINE COMPANY

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14 years for the 'wicked stabbing' of 10-year-old girl

By Howard Foster

A man who left a girl aged 10 for dead in an alleyway after he had attacked her with a knife was jailed for 14 years yesterday at Maidstone Crown Court.

Kelvin Chapman admitted attempting to murder Catherine Humphrey, whom he dragged into his car near her home in Minster, Kent, after asking her for directions.

The judge, Mr Justice Farquharson, told Chapman he had committed "about as wicked a crime as one could conceive" after the court was told that Catherine had tried to crawl home, leaving a trail of blood in the snow. She suffered six serious stab wounds and is still receiving treatment for delayed shock and mental scarring.

Miss Ann Curnow, QC, for the prosecution, said that the attack occurred on January 16 this year at a time when Kent was practically snowbound.

Catherine had been writing letters at her home in Pett's Crescent and had gone out to buy stamps when she was approached by Chapman, a bus driver aged 28, of Voltaire Road, Clapham, south London.

He got out of his grey car to ask her the way to a bank but, when the girl replied that she was new to the area, Chapman forced her into the passenger side of the car, pushing her head to the floor. He locked the door and got into the car, shouting at her: "Are you ready or your head will roll".

He drove off with her but stopped soon afterwards and started to stab her. The force of the blows was such that the blade of the knife became detached from the handle but the girl "showed great presence of mind and somehow unlocked the door", Miss Curnow said.

She struggled free, leaving her coat and other items in the car, and made her way through an alleyway towards her home. She was in great

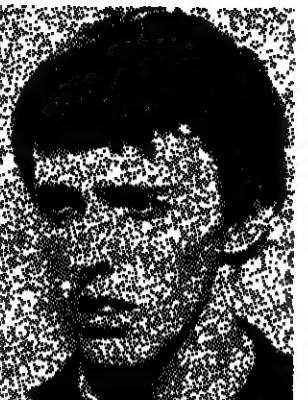
Mrs Pamela Humphrey, the girl's mother, said last night that the sentence given to Chapman was "absolutely fantastic".

"It has really made my day. Fourteen years, fantastic. He deserves everything he gets. I am very, very bitter about it. What he did to my Catherine still leaves me devastated."

Kelvin Chapman, who was divorced by his wife in 1984 and has a son aged seven, began his job with London Regional Transport only a few months before his attack on Catherine.

He originally came from Kent but had been staying at a flat in Clapham provided by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

He had worked at the Shepherds Bush bus depot since November 1986. His colleagues described him as a "quietly spoken loner, who would not start any conversation unless spoken to".



Kelvin Chapman, who carried out the savage attack.

distress and kept falling down, leaving blood in the alleyway.

Catherine later told police she was "making a horrible noise", and Miss Curnow said that the girl had been "crawling home by instinct".

Eventually she collapsed and was found by an elderly priest who was unable to lift

her, but a school friend came past and raised the alarm.

The stabbed girl went into deep shock and began to ask if she was going to die. She remained in hospital for 40 days and is now back at school, but still suffering from the effects of her ordeal.

Police investigating the incident made an early breakthrough when a witness came forward to say that he had seen a grey car in the area of the attack on two occasions.

Detectives also traced the car to a hire company in west London where they learnt that Chapman had already hired another vehicle. They lay in wait for him at his flat in Voltaire Road, Clapham, and arrested him.

Chapman told police: "Over the past years I've got this pathological hatred for my wife. That little girl became my wife. I'm sorry. I was on acid at the time."

He then showed police where he had dumped the girl's coat and car muffs.

Det Insp George Rogers, the officer in charge of the case, told the court that Chapman's previous convictions included the violent rape of a girl aged 15 in May 1984. He was jailed for three years but was released after two.

Detectives believe that Chapman's original intention had been to take the girl to the same place where he had committed the earlier rape, at Old Ridge woods, near Littlebourne, some 19 miles away, but he might have been thwarted by Catherine's struggle and the fact that roads to Littlebourne were blocked by snow.

Mr Michael Gale, QC, for the defence, said that Chapman had made a full confession to the police and a medical report had found no indication that he was suffering from any mental illness.

"This defendant specifically instructed me to advance no excuse for what he undoubtedly did", Mr Gale said.



Catherine Humphrey (second left), the girl aged 10 who was stabbed six times, with her mother, Pamela, (left), her sister Tracy (second right), and nephew, Damien, last month during her 40-day stay in hospital.

Envoy returns

Safely home — and still the diplomat

By Philip Jacobson

With a broad smile on his face and a child's push-chair under one arm, Edward Chaplin folded his lanky frame into the aircraft seat and pronounced himself "delighted" to be on the last lap home.

A few hours earlier the British diplomat, whose abduction and beating by the Revolutionary Guard had touched off a tense diplomatic crisis, had flown into Frankfurt from the Iranian capital with his family.

Now they were London-bound, squinting into the lights of the television cameras that had followed them on board. While his wife, Nicola, was taking care of

nine-week-old Tom and Stephanie, aged three, Mr Chaplin exercised his professional skills by deflecting questions about the incident which had culminated in his being ordered out of Iran, along with four other British diplomats.

Looking fit, relaxed and apparently unscathed by the rough handling he received during the kidnap at gunpoint in the centre of the Iranian capital 12 days ago, Mr Chaplin would say only that his injuries had been "nothing terribly serious".

A Foreign Office official who was accompanying the family home reminded us more than once of the im-

portance of avoiding reporting anything that might inflame the still delicate situation in Tehran, where 13 diplomats remain in the British interests section of the Swedish embassy (of which Mr Chaplin had been second secretary).

At one point, it appeared that Mr Chaplin, who was apparently kidnapped and held for 24 hours in retaliation for the arrest of an Iranian diplomat in Manchester for alleged shop-lifting, would face a series of formal charges, two of which carried the death penalty.

"Naturally it was a great relief to be out", was all he had to say about that and the unnerving last-minute hitch which had prevented him and

his family from leaving Tehran as planned a day earlier.

"Now we're just looking forward to some rest and relaxation." By then, Tom was asleep in the carry-cot and Stephanie's attention had returned to her toys.

Mr Chaplin is known to have grown fond of the Iranian people. Would he ever contemplate going back? "One day perhaps, but I can't say I have any plans to do so, and I shouldn't think anyone's very likely to ask me."

With that, it was off to their house in Cambridge and the beginning of a well-deserved holiday — "probably somewhere there aren't any telephones."

Portfolio Gold Holiday for guards officer

A major in the Welsh Guards is the sole winner of the Portfolio Gold competition prize of £4,000. He plans to spend the money on home improvements and a family holiday to France.

Major John Henderson, aged 35, of Shrewton, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, who is based at Wilton, Wiltshire, is renovating a Victorian village house and said the money would go into the work.

He said: "I was hoping to take my wife and two young children on holiday to France this summer, but now we will definitely be able to go."

His wife, Jennifer, checked the winning numbers while he was out and the good news was broken when he returned from taking his daughter aged five to school.

"I have been playing Portfolio regularly and reading The Times since 1980", he said.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold.

The Times, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.



Major Henderson will spend some money on home.

Supplementary Benefit

Charities meet poverty bill

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Charities are being inundated with calls from families who cannot afford to buy essential clothing and furniture previously provided by the Government.

The Welfare Association, which gives grants to the poor and disabled, has to refuse hundreds of applications from families who desperately need children's clothing, beds, cookers and other necessities.

Before 1980, people on Supplementary Benefit could get a grant, or single payment, to cover the cost of essential items of food, clothing and kitchen equipment. But in the past six years single payments have been reduced sharply.

They will be abolished entirely when new social security reforms are introduced next April, to be replaced by a loan system, the Social Fund.

"Charities already under great financial pressure are

now in the awkward position of having to relieve public funds", Mrs Joan Dixon, a Family Welfare grants officer, said.

Since the changes in single payments came into effect, applications had trebled and were still rising, she said.

Applications were coming in from parents who were too embarrassed to send their children to school in threadbare clothing or could not afford a winter coat.

"We have had requests for money for baby budgets from single parents in high rise flats, and a carpet to replace a dangerously worn rug in an old lady's flat."

Mrs Dixon said the charity had a fixed budget of £100,000 a year. "If we pay for these items we will be unable to fund new computerized devices for the disabled, the blind and the deaf."

The National Council for One Parent Families has been flooded with calls from single mothers anxious about the safety of their children crawling on floorboards in damp and draughty rooms because they have been refused single payments for floor coverings and curtains.

"The Social Fund threatens the health and safety of half a million single parent families", a spokeswoman for the council said yesterday.

Those with the most pressing needs and highest debts were the least likely to get help, she said.

The council, which has urged the Government to reconsider the proposals, is concerned that single parents, who have been victims of abuse, might be exposed to further threats and violence from former partners who could be liable to repay the loans.

PCs 'beat man on ground'

A woman told Cardiff Crown Court yesterday how she had seen the man with whom she lived assaulted by two police officers outside his home, in August last year. She had later been taken to see Mr Philip Howard's body where it lay in a police cell.

Mrs Megan Roberts, who lived with Mr Howard, and her daughter, aged 12, in Tylorstown, Mid Glamorgan, told the court how the two officers who arrested Mr Howard bent his legs behind him and held them there as he lay handcuffed on the ground. She said she saw one officer with his knee on Mr Howard while the other held him by the hair.

She said she told PC Harris, one of the two officers: "There's no need to beat him like that", and then asked if she could go with them to the police station because she was worried about him. His face was white and distorted and he could hardly speak, she said.

Later she described how she had been taken to see Mr Howard's body in the cells at Tonpentre police station. "Philip was lying on the floor with a dirty old blanket over him", she said.

Police Constables Jackie Harris, aged 37, of Talbot Green, Mid Glamorgan, and Stephen Riddick, aged 24, of Glynnfach, Rhondda, Mid Glamorgan, both deny the manslaughter of Mr Philip Howard, aged 29, an unemployed labourer. The case continues.

Driver 'was talking before coach crash'

A coach driver turned repeatedly to talk to a passenger just before a crash in Spain in which three British tourists died, an inquest was told yesterday.

A passenger had spoken several times to the Spanish driver before the coach ploughed into a lorry parked in a lay-by in Tarragona, Hornsey coroners' court was told.

Mr Wilfred Davies and his wife, Valerie, both aged 56, of Elsing Road, Enfield, died of multiple injuries and Mr Victor Wood, aged 61, of Stockleys Road, Northbury, died of a collapsed heart.

The coach driver is facing legal action in Spain because of the accident.

Mrs Sybil Wood, a passenger, whose husband died, said in a statement that she was worried about the driver's actions.

She said: "I was not very happy about this because I felt it affected concentration."

Dr David Paul, the coroner, recorded verdicts of accidental death.

He said: "One of the lessons to come out of this is that it is the coach driver's concern to concentrate on his driving."

"But human nature being what it is, he can be easily distracted by the engaging in conversation of the driver with other people in the coach."

Eighteen passengers were injured in the accident last June.

Mr Martin Brackenbury, deputy managing director of Thomson Holidays, told the inquest that the coach firm had been used by his company for 15 years. There had been no similar accidents in that time.

Crash victims blame 'rogue' car

A "rogue" BMW car was yesterday blamed for "inexplicably" crashing into a lamppost causing injuries to a retired managing director and his wife.

Mr John Hurst, aged 73, and his wife, Dorothy, are seeking damages in the High Court from BMW (GB), and the authorized repair agents, Motortune, claiming there was either a manufacturing fault or negligent repair and servicing.

The companies deny negligence and blame Mr Hurst's driving for the accident on the Worthing to Brighton road in November 1982.

The couple, of Dolphin Square, Finsbury, south-west London, said the BMW 735 had been "plagued with faults" from the day it was delivered in April 1982.

Mr Alan Newman, counsel for the Hursts, told Judge Canfield that Mr Hurst claimed there was a fault with the transmission or gearbox after just one month.

At two months the hand-brake had to be tightened and at three months the brake shoes had to be replaced.

Then, just seven months after it was delivered, the accident happened when the

car "suddenly and without warning swerved violently to the right and collided with a lamppost".

Mr Hurst, who had been driving for 40 years, suffered a broken leg and cuts to his face, but he had made a good recovery. His wife received broken ribs, and a spinal injury which has limited her movements.

Before the accident, Mr Hurst had noticed a noise coming from the car and it was due to return to the garage two days later.

The hearing continues today.

Oxford parties warning

By Sarah Thompson Education Reporter

Oxford students have been formally warned by the police and university authorities for the second year running to keep their noisy and "boorish" end of examinations celebrations off the streets.

The signs are that a constant police presence is winning the battle against the new and unwelcome Oxford tradition of celebrating the end of examinations by filling the city's main streets with broken champagne bottles, shaving foam, flour and other missiles.

Yesterday was the day the proctors dreaded most; the end of history finals, one of the largest schools in the university.

A year ago Miss Olivia Channon, daughter of Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, died in a room at Christ Church after a drink and drugs spree that began with an "end of School" (examinations) party in the High.

The proctors and Thames Valley Police have sent students tough letters warning them that "appropriate action" will be taken against students who do not take their parties straight back to their lodgings or college rooms.

Dr Peter Neumann, senior proctor, has told students: "The boorish behaviour exhibited on these occasions is a new phenomenon and is certainly not hallowed or excused by tradition."

"The public image of the university should not be one of irresponsibility, discourtesy and extravagant waste."

The police and proctors, he said, were "anxious to avoid unpleasant confrontations between police and students" and he added that there was "plenty of scope for happy celebration within the bounds set by good manners and considerate behaviour."

Chief Supt John Goodenough told students: "The stupid acts of the few affect the well-being of the many. Appropriate action will be taken against those who do not heed this advice."

Two years ago students held up traffic day after day.

Dr Neumann believes that students are now taking notice of the warnings.

Ten-point plan for better child health

By Michael Horsnell

Parents should be required to show proof of their children's immunization record when they start school, the National Children's Bureau said yesterday.

The recommendation is part of a new, 10-point plan aimed to improve the declining health of the nation's 9.5 million under-15s.

The bureau also suggested that if immunization levels had not reached 95 per cent by 1990 legal measures should be considered.

Professor Philip Graham,

chairman of the bureau's policy and practice review group, said: "Immunization should be considered a child's legal right. But with regional variations the level is only between 60 and 80 per cent. There are so many preventable conditions not being prevented. Child health care is important but you wouldn't guess so from the party election manifestos."

The bureau's report, *Investing in the Future*, says that all the evidence suggests children's needs have even been given lower priority since the Committee on Child Health Services, chaired by Professor

Donald Court, reported to the Government in 1976.

Three in 1,000 children have handicaps.

Professor Graham, Dean of the Institute of Child Health at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, added: "Despite definite progress we cannot view the health and social conditions of many children and the development of child health services over the past 10 years with anything but deep dissatisfaction."

Among points raised in the bureau's plan of improvement are:

who should possess standard health records of their children.

● Preventive services should be organized on the basis of real primary health care teams, including a consultant community paediatrician.

● Systematic organization of school health services with a named doctor and nurse at each school.

● A personal advisory service with confidential counselling for adolescents within secondary schools.

Investing in the Future: Child Health 10 Years after the Court Report (National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakeley Street, London EC1V 7QE).

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go on teaching my kids about
GAYS & LESBIANS instead of
giving them proper lessons."**

Committee for a Free Britain

B Sheridan



**"My name is Mark Jenks.
I live in Mansfield.
I'm a miner, married with two children.
And I'm scared.**

**If you vote LABOUR the STRIKES
and PICKETING will come back
and we'll have to take on SCARGILL
and his friends all over again."**

Committee for a Free Britain

M Jenks



**"My name is Lynn Anderson.
I live in Suffolk.
I'm a midwife in the Health Service.
And I'm scared.**

**If Labour get in they'll make a mess
of the economy as they did last time.
And then they'll be forced to cut
spending on the Health Service -
as they were in 1977."**

Committee for a Free Britain

L Anderson



**"My name is Graham Barton.
I come from Liverpool.
Until last year, I was a
sergeant in The British Army.
And even I'm scared.**

**If you vote Labour they'll
get rid of our nuclear deterrent.
Then our soldiers won't have
a chance against the Russians."**

Committee for a Free Britain

G Barton

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Kinnock in emotive plea on future of the young

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock last night cast aside the minutiae of party policy and appealed directly to the hearts and emotions of voters by warning of the dangers posed by more Thatcherism to Britain's future generations.

On a day when Labour proclaimed itself as the party of the family, Mr Kinnock spoke eloquently of the dreams he had for his own children — and the hopes he maintained for all Britain's youngsters.

His emotive appeal to the conscience of the nation came four years to the day after he spoke in Bridgend, on the eve of Labour's humiliating 1983 general election defeat, when he warned that if Mrs Thatcher was re-elected people should not be ordinary, should not be young, should not fall ill, should not get old.

Mr Kinnock, speaking at a packed rally in Leeds, said Britain's children needed to live in a country that was not divided by privilege, poverty or poisoned by conflict. Britain's future generations needed a country not disabled by mass unemployment, not fractured by weak, partial and backward health and education systems.

He added: "The question is always, what will the outcome of this election mean for my children, what will it mean for the future of our country."

And in a direct appeal to voters he went on: "When we know that we have to face the choice, each person of all politics and no politics have to ask themselves: 'Am I prepared to offer to the rising generation unemployment, under-investment in education, shortages in training?'"

"Am I prepared to offer the young an environment that is abused and endangered, the tensions between races, the deepening divisions between rich and poor?" "Should

Britain's youngsters face a society where full opportunity was dependent on the ability to pay, where housing was priced beyond reach, where women were greater in number but permanently smaller in income and status?"

"They are the questions. They pose themselves with a starkness not known to any post-war generation of voters. And the reason for that is that we have a government and a Prime Minister that don't have the commitment shown to the children of this country and shown by every previous government since 1945."

The Labour leader compared Mrs Thatcher's unfavourable record against the governments of Winston Churchill, Harold MacMillan and Edward Heath and insisted he was not letting distance from those past Tory leaders lead enchantment to his view.

"Now we have a different brand of Toryism from a leader of the Tory Party, who within months of her election to that position in 1975 defined her attitude to the young by saying, 'Let the children grow tall and some taller than others if they have it in them to do so.'"

But Mrs Thatcher had interpreted that in the manner of a fundamentalist who wanted to carry on a Holy War. After eight years of Thatcherism she had ignored the two million children who lived in families that endured poverty. She had forgotten the children who went to under-funded, decrepit and deprived schools. And she had not thought of the children on hospital waiting lists or youngsters with handicaps and disabilities.

Far from helping the children to "grow tall" a re-elected Tory government would hamper vast numbers of children with further cuts in health, welfare and education.

Fastidious canvasser hoping to lead Tories home

By George Hill

A funeral party erupted from a rose-trimmed door in Cambridge's regenerated Kite district, splitting a band of Tory canvassers in two and parting the candidate momentarily from his "nippers".

The blue rosettes yielded precedence to the black, and Mr Robert Rhodes James stood abstracted at the kerbside, brooding on mortality and oblivious to passers-by seeking to catch his eye.

But two jolly women in one of the funeral cars waved and grinned like anything as they drove away. Mr Rhodes James reminded himself that life had its claims too, and turned back to the world of glad-handing.

"I got them to grass over this square", he told a waving bearded voter. "It was an ugly car park before. *Si monumentum requiris, circumspice*," he added, striving to regain the common touch.

Professor Rhodes James (he does not insist on the title) is not one of those MPs who went into politics to secure an excuse to walk the streets hailing everybody he meets.

He is a diffident and fastidious canvasser, though he leaves behind him an intangible impression that a benign and distinguished spirit has passed by.

As a technique, it seems to meet the expectations of many voters. A whole series of opinion polls have predicted that they will send him back to resume his donnish life at Westminster, writing political biographies and mildly deploring the excesses of monetarism.

A crew of hearty Tory undergraduates are rigging up a Battle Punt to carry the party flag up and down the Backs at election time. A "photo-opportunity" to gladden any agent's heart; but the candidate looks pained at the very mention of it.

"Robert's campaign has been non-existent", Mrs Shirley Williams, his SDP rival, says, bouncing off a lorry that was pasted all over with canary yellow stickers and decked with yellow balloons. Her own campaign in Cambridge has been extremely existent, despite the demands made on her as one of her party's principal national spokesmen.

The "Shirley factor" is acknowledged by all the can-



Mr Robert Rhodes James, powered by Miss Bryony Griffiths, a student, canvassing for the Tories in a punt on the River Cam in Cambridge yesterday.

didates to be an important element in the campaign.

For Tories, she is the slaughterer of the grammar schools — though Mrs Thatcher presided over more schemes of comprehensive reorganization than Mrs Williams ever did. Some Labour voters may still see her as one of the four arch-turncoats of the Limehouse Declaration.

Undergraduates seem to have no real views

The polls continue regularly to predict that she will be lucky even to beat Labour into third place. But her campaign has a zest that the others markedly lack and it clearly has an especial appeal to younger members of the university.

Cambridge is not an easy constituency to read. The Labour candidate, Mr Chris Howard, said: "No ward in the city is naturally Labour, Conservative or Alliance territory today. Determinist politics just do not apply here." Mr Howard is a teacher aged 35

from South Wales ("Kinnock territory"), with curly hair and a rueful air.

"The Alliance are making so much of tactical voting, but your best chance of getting rid of Thatcher is to vote for us", he tells doorstep voters, giving him a mixed reception on an unkempt council estate in the north of the constituency.

Micro-chip Cambridge is one of the most prosperous cities in Britain, and indeed in Europe, so it is no surprise if many voters have little inclination to change horses when things are going so well.

It is also a university town, with academic attitudes of both left and right usually in animated play. But the timing of the election means that much of the university has been convulsed during the campaign not with politics but with final examinations.

Dr Edward Norman, Dean of Peterhouse, said: "Such undergraduates as I've come across have no real views at all", as if undergraduates of any political colour are the last thing a dean would expect to come across.

Peterhouse is a college renowned for its right-wing leanings. It is parodied with a broad brush by Tom Sharpe in *Porterhouse Blue*, now being serialised on television. Mr Howard gained his doctorate at Peterhouse and, like the dyspeptic master of the college in the serial, his experiences there only reinforced his adherence to the left.

Dons in Cambridge have much the same reasons to feel a grudge towards Mrs Thatcher as their Oxford counterparts showed when they denied her an honorary degree. Professor R. M. Needham, head of the university computer laboratory, said: "Grant problems don't affect our department too badly because we get extensive support from overseas industry."

"I suspect other departments needing heavy apparatus suffer more and projects do face uncertainty about continuity of funding."

"But there is also a feeling of some cynicism among scientists as to whether an alternative government would be likely to reinstate spending."

Professor Stephen Hawking, Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, said: "I had no difficulty in deciding to vote Labour, but academic opinion in Cambridge is not the same as mine."

"It is different in my department — scientists are nicer people. And I think the question of research funds has had a big influence."

There is a feeling of cynicism among scientists

Old and young members of the university agree that undergraduates today are less inclined to the left than they were a few years ago.

Professor Bernard Williams, Provost of King's, a legendary hotbed of leftism, says: "Even in this college undergraduates are becoming more conservative with a small 'c' and with a large 'C' too, I suspect, for a minority. But it is still true that people working in universities are not particularly well disposed to the Government at present."

The Labour Party nationally sees the contest in Cambridge as a chance to win back voters who defected to the Social Democrats.

At a rally in the city on Saturday, Mr Roy Hattersley earnestly appealed to them to "come home to Labour". At last month's local elections, the Alliance made a particularly strong showing in the wards where university voters are concentrated. Disillusioned with Labour but resentful of spending constraints, university opinion may well be shifting towards the centre.

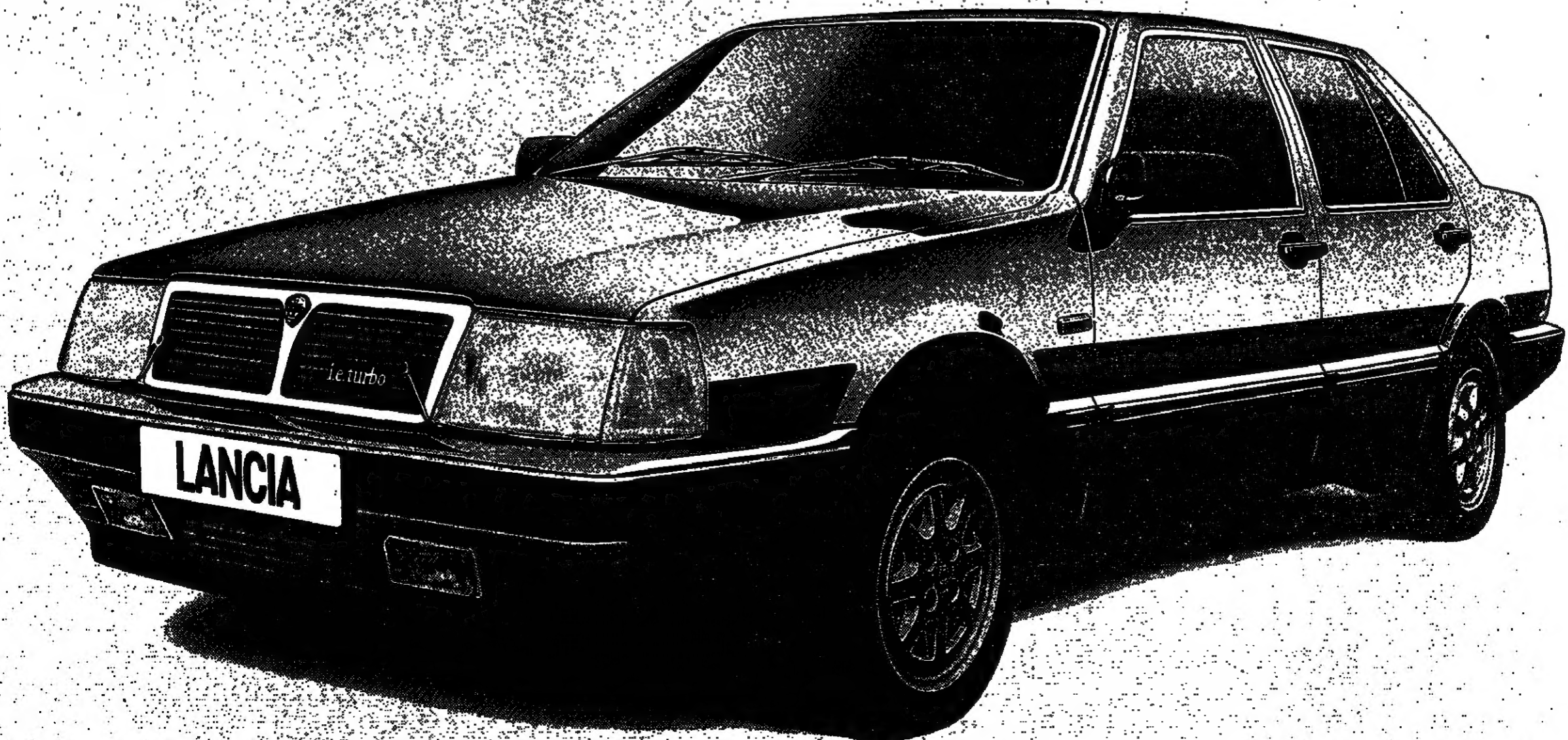
Two polls yesterday suggested that Mrs Williams may fail to win Cambridge (the Press Association reports).

The first, commissioned by Anglia TV, shows Labour on 35 per cent, Mrs Williams on 33 per cent, and the Conservatives on 28.5 per cent.

The second poll, for *The Cambridge Evening News*, showed the Conservatives on 35.2 per cent, Labour on 34.6 per cent, and the Alliance on 29.5 per cent. The survey questioned 580 people between Friday and Sunday.

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little doubt that during a test drive strong passions will be aroused. ¶ To arrange a test drive, contact your nearest Lancia Dealer. Or write to Lancia Freepost.

Labour keeps up assault on health record of Tories

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Labour yesterday kept up its attack on the Tory's record on the National Health Service with a catalogue of horror stories about filthy wards, patients getting hypothermia in hospitals and women being transferred in labour from one hospital to another.

Three London consultants, sharing the stage with the party's health spokesman, Mr Frank Dobson, complained that the Tory's policy of putting ancillary services out to competitive tendering in the NHS had resulted in enormous reductions in domestic staff and appalling cleaning standards.

There had been a 50 per cent cut in domestic staff on wards at University College London, Dr John Yudkin, a consultant at the Whittington Hospital, North London, said. "Sisters and staff nurses are now expressing great anxiety about dirty ward state food kept under beds for days and filthy toilets," Dr Yudkin said. Laundry shortages had meant that many hospitals had no nightdresses or pillow cases.

"There has clearly been a vicious spiral of cutbacks leading to a loss of morale and a drop in recruitment making it very difficult for all NHS

workers. If we have another five years of this Government there is going to be very little left of the NHS," Dr Yudkin said.

Hospital buildings were in need of urgent maintenance work. Two patients had developed hypothermia at UCLH, allegedly because the windows could not be shut properly. "Mrs Thatcher said before the last election that the NHS was safe in her hands. They must be pretty cold hands, belonging to a cold heart," Dr Yudkin said.

Mrs Wendy Savage, the consultant obstetrician at The London Hospital who was cleared of allegations of incompetence, claimed that a 15 per cent cut in bed numbers in London over the last six years had meant that there were not enough beds in maternity wards to assign to pregnant women when they attended for antenatal care. "Last week women were transferred in labour from Homerton Hospital in the City, to the Westminster Hospital because there were not enough beds," she said.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Dobson had come up with further examples to add to the case of the 10-year-old boy, Mark

Burgess, waiting 15 months for a hole in the heart operation. "Mrs Margaret Thatcher said last week that she can have hospital treatment any time, any day, any place. The vast majority of people are not so lucky."

Among other cases, he cited that of Mr David Stevenson, of Greatstone, Kent who was sent home for the third time after being admitted to have a hole in the heart operation at St Thomas's Hospital, London, because there were no beds.

The health spokesman's third salvo of the morning was against NHS pay beds, which he claimed were a financial drain on the NHS. "The Comptroller and Auditor General has already admitted that NHS pay beds lose money for the NHS as the cost of treating patients is much higher than the fees they charge," Mr Dobson said.

He said that recent figures from the Independent Hospital Group suggested that the NHS may be losing as much as £40 million a year from pay beds, which would nearly cancel out the £52 million which pay beds bring in to the NHS.



General Younger sets out to conquer the North

By Gavin Bell

Any staff officer who has been in the field knows that an essential part of waging a successful campaign is adapting your tactics to the terrain. Mr George Younger applied this maxim with mixed results when he flew north to rally his troops in Tory marginals in Edinburgh and mount a raid behind enemy lines in Fife.

The Secretary of State for Defence raised his colours in the secretive location of a Ferranti electronics factory during a visit from which the press was barred.

He was then accompanied by only two newspaper reporters as he sampled the wares of a brewery, recently bought by its management; that uses traditional Victorian techniques. Quite how these sorties were supposed to win over the masses was unclear.

A phalanx of blue rosettes

then assembled as we swept into the cosmopolitan throng of Princes Street. But locals to be won over were hard to find.

"We are coming from Iceland," the first recipient of the Younger handshake replied. "Australian," the next responded. "Hey, a Tory, Maggie and Ronnie right on," a colourful Texan lady said enthusiastically. The western alliance, at least, was in good shape.

Then, at last, a constituent, in the dejected form of an unemployed youth lounging in a shop doorway. "There's a shortage of people with skills," Mr Younger assured him. "Aye, but there's nae jobs though," came the response in the clipped accent of Lothian.

After lunch, a Royal British Legion retirement home offered more promising terrain. The old soldiers and diminutive women in their Sunday

best listened politely as Mr Younger explained the importance of maintaining our nuclear deterrent.

A question and answer session revealed that the attack had been launched on the wrong front. "What about pensions, sir, we've an awful job getting by these days—can't you do anything about the rates, Mr Younger?"

Our commanding officer faltered before this unexpected flurry of small arms fire, but Lord James Douglas-Hamilton was able to step into the breach. The young lord, an awfully nice chap in the best traditions of Woodhouse, is defending one of the smallest Tory majorities, 498 votes in Edinburgh West, with steady resolve but impeccable manners.

He countered the old soldiers with an anecdote about how his father, in 1933, be-

came the first man to fly over Mount Everest and thereby gained the respect that helped him to found Scottish Aviation, now the most successful division of British Aerospace, which just went to show how courage and initiative could secure jobs for Scotland.

But the first hint of real combat came with a warning from Mr Younger's Special Branch minders that a hostile "welcoming committee" was gathering at a primary school in Rosyth, where he was to address a public meeting. That was cheering news and Mr Younger smiled with satisfaction.

It should be observed that Mr Younger was taking a considerable political risk in engaging the enemy at close quarters before the cameras of BBC Scotland. It is something that Labour leaders rarely have to contend with; Con-

servatives are not given to turning up in force to heckle socialist rallies.

For more than two hours the battle swirled around charges that Mrs Thatcher was responsible for the impending loss of 1,000 jobs at the naval dockyard near by. Mr Younger fired back that Labour's plans to scrap the Trident programme would inflict a severe double blow on Rosyth, leaving it jobless and defenceless.

An attempt to overwhelm him with a bull-born was cut short by a call from the floor: "If you'll be quiet we'll all get a chance to hammer him."

Mr Younger approvingly joined in the applause which greeted this remark. He was clearly enjoying himself and, by common consent, valiantly defended the Conservative standard.

SAVINGS OF THE DAY

● Labour have simply no idea where they are. Their deception takes away one's breath — Mr John MacGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

● Mrs Thatcher's policy is to confront everyone with the choice between pain and disabling illness on the one hand and paying for private treatment on the other — Mr Bryan Gould, Labour campaign coordinator.

● The criticism I would make as a professional is that, if they set out to deceive and conceal, they have failed — Mr Norman Tebbit, Conservative party chairman.

● She [Mrs Thatcher] is grown up, she is a politician. She is a professional, so am I. There is no point in whingeing about it — Mr Neil Kinnock.

● If we have another five years of this Government there's going to be little left of the NHS — Dr John Yudkin, consultant physician.

COMMENTARY



It is not only parties that win and lose in elections. So do individual politicians. In respect of what happens to their party. So who have been the main personal winners and losers over the past few weeks?

Among the party leaders, Mrs Thatcher and the two Davids have not had good campaigns, while Mr Kinnock is the only one to have enhanced his standing.

Mrs Thatcher still appears to have a good chance of her third term, but suddenly the end of the Thatcher era is in sight. I am not suggesting that it will be brought to a swift and abrupt conclusion. If she remains in Downing Street now, I am not expecting her to set off for Dulwich within the year.

But there will not be a fourth term. At the start of the campaign it was foolish to speak of it now it is impossible to contemplate it.

Her powers of political recuperation are, it is true, remarkable. Her recovery from the Westland fiasco was one of the most impressive accomplishments of the past year. It is especially hard to assess her impact nationally because her strong personality has such contrary effects upon different people.

Her courage and determination are beyond question. But in this campaign her insensitivity has come shining through. If they are going for a fourth term the Conservatives will need a different style of leadership.

This knowledge will have its effect in the new Parliament. For the first time talk about the succession will be more than idle speculation, even if the time of decision may still be two or more years away. That gives particular point to the performance of other lead-

ing Conservatives in this campaign.

I would select three who will be able to look back on these past few weeks with some satisfaction. Mr Kenneth Baker has not had the easiest of tasks. To have to spend time explaining what it was that the Prime Minister really meant is not the best way for a departmental minister to launch complicated new proposals on such a sensitive topic as schools.

I was unable to see him in action myself as I travelled around the country. But I was able to speak to many Conservatives who had been impressed by his performance. That should stand him in good stead when Mrs Thatcher does retire.

Mr George Younger is another who has won praise. Personally popular and quietly persuasive, he would be the obvious compromise choice in any succession struggle. He would offer a very different style of leadership: the chairman of the Cabinet, rather than a dominating force. But by that time the party and the country might want a little less domination.

Mr Heseltine does not seem to me a likely successor after his resignation. But he too has had a good campaign, not only working strenuously but, evidently, being more widely appreciated by the party in the country than I had expected.

Mr Tebbit, by contrast, must have lost ground as the chairman of the party conducting a campaign which is thought to have been less than a model of good organization and political perception.

For the Alliance the two Davids have waged a poorer contest together than either of them could have done separately. In a sense their strengths can be complementary. But because they have different skills and approaches they have managed to inhibit each other.

The fault has not been too many joint appearances: look how they disagreed over serving with Mrs Thatcher when they campaigned separately. It is simply that joint leadership itself has not worked.

For the Labour Party Mr Kinnock's skill and nerve has been the feature of the campaign. It must have increased his personal authority within the Shadow Cabinet and the party at large. For how long? That will be one of the most critical questions for the future of British politics.

More changes up Labour's sleeve

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

A Dutch auction over increases in the state retirement pension has tended to drown out discussion of Labour's radical tax proposals on pensions and the big difference of approach between the Conservatives and the other parties. But yesterday the row over Labour's "secret manifesto" began to spill over from tax into the pensions arena.

Labour's bid for the pensioners' vote has centred on an increase in the single pension of £5 a week and in the pension for a married couple of £8. The Alliance proposals are more modest with an increase for poorer pensioners of £3.70 and £5.75 for married couples.

The Conservatives promise only to maintain the value of the pension, pointing out that total government spending on state pensions and benefits for the elderly has risen since 1979 by 29 per cent in real terms. They say that higher inflation, which the other parties acknowledge their economic policies would entail, would cut into pensioners' savings, and claim that the retired have seen their income grow by 7 per cent a year compared with a drop of 3½ per cent a year under Labour.

Aside from the commitment to higher state pensions, Labour's manifesto is more or less silent on plans affecting the retired. But as in other areas of the tax system the party has additional policies with important implications.

Talking to the magazine *Pensions* last week Mr Neil Kinnock disclosed that Labour would severely limit the tax advantages attaching to the popular "lump sum". At present pensioners are allowed to draw a limited part of their pension entitlement in the form of a lump sum on which (unlike for pension) they are not liable for tax.

Labour proposes instead to apply the much less generous regime designed for company "golden handshakes". This would mean that only the first £25,000 would be tax-free and the remainder would be taxed at half the marginal tax rate applying in the final year of work.

Mr Kinnock also confirmed that all tax reliefs would be restricted to the basic rate. As

Women start to get parties' attention

By Sophie Witter

Compared with the big issues of this election, women's concerns have not received much coverage, but for the first time it has become clear that they are a specific target group in need of special policies.

Three of the four main parties have appealed to the female half of the electorate with proposals for positive action for jobs, health and representation.

The Conservatives maintain that women share essentially the same needs as men. Their manifesto names few treats in store for women (the exceptions being improved treatment of rape victims and comprehensive breast and cervical cancer screening).

Labour and the Alliance are loath to treat women as the vulnerable sex, but they agree that social and family conditions put extra burdens and restrictions on women, without the removal of which they will never be able to gain equal status, freedom and choice in the running of their lives.

Both advocate positive action as well as the removal of existing disabilities and the differences between them are mainly of style.

ISSUES WOMEN

Labour is unique in advocating a ministry of women, to be headed by a secretary of state with a staff of 300 civil servants. Its job would be to "make sure that, in framing their policies, all government departments listen and respond to women's needs and concerns" and to counter discrimination in all branches of government.

The party's manifesto also promises "vigorous enforcement" of legislation against violence against women. This forms part of Labour's campaign to pull the law-and-order carpet from under Tory feet.

The Conservatives proudly proclaim that a quarter of self-employed people in the country are women, but the other relevant figures are that two-thirds of the low paid are women (one fifth earn less than £50 for a full working week), who make up 45 per cent of our working population. There can be no doubt that women do not enjoy the

equality to which all parties pay lip-service.

The Labour manifesto emphasizes equal rights and pay, protection of part-time workers (of whom most are women) and assistance to parents who stay at home or need to take time off work.

In keeping with its views on the importance of the structures of government, the Alliance emphasizes its on equal access to representative bodies, and the manifesto argues that proportional representation will give women a better chance of getting into Westminster.

The Alliance plans to create a ministry of justice, which will include a human rights commission with responsibility for the work done at present by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Married and cohabiting women would gain an equal share of the family home if they had lived in it for a long time and no woman with children who had left home after a dispute would be deemed to have made herself homeless.

In 1983, a total of 23 women were elected to Parliament, an under-representation that the parties have been eager to

improve on this time.

The SDP has the highest proportion of women candidates — 20 per cent — but the Labour and Tory women are more likely to get elected. The Alliance is putting up 99 women, Labour 91 and the Conservatives 42. Whatever happens, the next Parliament is likely to contain a record number of female MPs.

Asquith is said to have opposed female suffrage because he thought that it would result in a permanent Tory majority. That is no longer the case: polls at the start of this campaign suggested that women were less likely to vote Conservative than men, and not only because opposition parties offer more active assistance to women.

Women, particularly the elderly, depend heavily on the National Health Service. Women are often the first to suffer in areas of high unemployment and extra demands are made on them by closure of nurseries, industrial action in schools and shortages of nurses and home helps.

It is on their record in these areas that the Conservatives have alienated many female voters.

ELECTION SUMMARY

Ulster Unionists hope for hung parliament

The Ulster leadership in Northern Ireland is hoping that the election will result in a hung parliament in which they will offer support to either major party in return for the suspension of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

The Reverend Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said that an inconclusive result would strengthen the position of Loyalists and they would present a "shopping basket" to parties who sought their support.

He said that they wanted closure of Maryfield in East Belfast, which houses the joint Anglo-Irish Secretariat, and the suspension of the agreement, followed by a round-table conference to seek a replacement and alternative to the accord. However, although most Ulster MPs want a hung parliament, Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionists, admitted yesterday that he was not pinning his hopes on such an outcome and believed that the Conservatives would be returned to office.

Poverty 'distorted'

A report claiming poor families have become worse off under Mrs Margaret Thatcher was described by Conservatives yesterday as a "chambers distortion". The *Growing Divide* by the Child Poverty Action Group said poor families with children suffered a drop in real income of between 15.7 per cent and 27.2 per cent between 1979 and 1985.

But Mr John Major, Minister for Social Security and the Disabled, said the report included in its assessment housing benefit as part of real disposable income in 1979, but excluded it later.

Silence on miners

Mrs Glenys Kinnock denied yesterday that she has been gagged during the election campaign after declining comment on the refusal by the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers to recommend members to vote Labour.

Invited to speak about it in Nottinghamshire she refused and would only say: "I am not standing for office. Roy Hattersley and Neil Kinnock have already made their opinions very clear." It was her husband's "very clear opinion" that the UDM members should re-join the NUM.

Leaflet banned

Mr Robin Corbett, who is defending his Birmingham Edingston seat for Labour, has been granted a court injunction banning the distribution of a leaflet. He contends that the leaflet libels him.

Mr Corbett asserts that the leaflet, which was circulated in his constituency by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, distorts his views concerning abortion and the use of human embryos in scientific experiments.

Advert complaint

The Advertising Standards Authority yesterday received its first complaint about a campaign advertisement. The complaint, which will be upheld, was that the Campaign for a Free Britain omitted an address from which further information could be obtained from two advertisements in *The Sun*.

In 1983, there were more than a score of complaints and the Conservatives had a complaint upheld against one of its posters attacking the SDP.

Strike off for election

The two largest teachers' unions will call off their series of half-day strikes at midday today to avoid disrupting schools which are being used as polling stations.

The National Union of Teachers and National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers yesterday called out up to 30,000 of their members in 52 education authorities, affecting 1,500,000 pupils.

The strikes are in protest against the Government's removal of collective pay negotiations. Last Friday schools in Kent were singled out to coincide with a visit from the Prime Minister. This week no special protests are planned.

Barometer seat indicates a Tory win

By Craig Seton

A Marplan poll has given the Conservatives a 9 per cent lead in the marginal constituency of Birmingham Yardley, a "barometer" seat where the party of the victorious candidate has formed the government in every general election since 1959.

According to the poll in *The Birmingham Evening Mail* yesterday, the Conservatives had 44 per cent support (43 per cent in 1983). Labour 35 (36) and the Alliance 21 per cent (20).

The seat was held by Mr David Gilroy Bevan for the Conservatives with a majority of 2,865 in the 1983 general election. On the figures in the Marplan poll, Mr Gilroy Bevan would increase his majority to about 3,800.

The Marplan poll was conducted in the constituency on Friday, when 1,035 people were interviewed. It is a blow to the Labour Party.

If such support for the Conservatives was repeated

POLL WATCH

throughout Birmingham, the party would also hold the Northfield constituency, another marginal, where its majority in 1983 was 2,760.

According to the poll, 46 per cent of those questioned said the NHS was the most important issue, followed by unemployment (37 per cent), law and order (34 per cent) and standards in schools (24 per cent). Only 11 per cent put defence first.

A total of 79 per cent, including 69 per cent of Conservative voters, preferred more government spending on services compared with only 21 per cent who favoured tax cuts.

The poll showed 46 per cent of women voters in the constituency supported the Conservatives, against 30 per cent for Labour and 23 per cent for the Alliance. Among men, 41 per cent supported the Tories, 39 per cent Labour and 19 per cent the Alliance.

OPINION POLL RATINGS

| Field Work | Poll | Con | Lab | All | OTH | Size | Published |
|------------|---------|------|------|------|-----|-------|------------------|
| May 13 | Marplan | 41.0 | 30.0 | 26.0 | 3.0 | 1,020 | Daily Express |
| May 13-14 | Harris | 42.0 | 33.0 | 23.0 | 2.0 | 1,040 | Observer |
| May 11-14 | MORI | 44.0 | 30.0 | 25.0 | 1.0 | 1,521 | Sunday Times |
| May 16-17 | Harris | 42.0 | 32.0 | 24.0 | 2.0 | 1,038 | TV-am |
| May 18-21 | Marplan | 41.0 | 32.0 | 24.0 | 2.0 | 1,072 | Today |
| May 18-21 | Harris | 43.0 | 36.0 | 20.0 | 1.0 | 1,075 | TV-am |
| May 19-20 | Gallup | 42.0 | 33.0 | 23.0 | 2.0 | 2,640 | Daily Telegraph |
| May 21 | Marplan | 41.0 | 33.0 | 21.0 | 2.0 | 1,037 | Observer |
| May 20-21 | Harris | 41.0 | 34.0 | 22.0 | 3.0 | 1,066 | Observer |
| May 20-22 | MORI | 44.0 | 31.0 | 24.0 | 1.0 | 1,328 | Sunday Times |
| May 20-22 | Gallup | 42.0 | 33.0 | 22.0 | 2.0 | 1,432 | Sunday Telegraph |
| May 22-25 | Harris | 42.0 | 37.0 | 21.0 | 1.0 | 1,075 | TV-am |
| May 25 | Marplan | 42.0 | 36.0 | 20.0 | 3.0 | 1,035 | Today |
| May 25-27 | Gallup | 44.5 | 36.0 | 18.0 | 1.5 | 2,508 | Daily Telegraph |
| May 26-29 | Harris | 45.0 | 32.0 | 22.0 | 1.0 | 1,067 | TV-am |
| May 28 | Marplan | 44.0 | 32.0 | 21.0 | 3.0 | 1,563 | Guardian |
| May 27-28 | MORI | 44.0 | 32.0 | 23.0 | 1.0 | 1,188 | Sunday Times |
| May 27-28 | Gallup | 41.5 | 34.0 | 22.5 | 2.0 | 1,271 | Sunday Telegraph |
| May 27-28 | Harris | 41.0 | 37.0 | 21.0 | 1.0 | 1,072 | Observer |
| June 1 | Marplan | 44.0 | 33.0 | 21.0 | 2.0 | 1,063 | Today |
| June 2 | NOP | 42.0 | 36.0 | 20.0 | 2.0 | 1,573 | TV-am |
| June 2-3 | Gallup | 40.5 | 36.5 | 20.0 | 3.0 | 1,989 | Independent |
| June 4 | Marplan | 44.0 | 34.0 | 20.0 | 2.0 | 1,576 | Daily Telegraph |
| June 4 | Marplan | 44.0 | 34.0 | 20.0 | 2.0 | 1,576 | Guardian |
| June 5 | Marplan | 43.0 | 35.0 | 21.0 | 1.0 | 1,088 | Today |
| June 3-4 | Harris | 44.0 | 33.0 | 21.0 | 2.0 | 1,067 | Observer |
| June 3-4 | MORI | 43.0 | 32.0 | 24.0 | 1.0 | 1,805 | Sunday Times |
| June 3-5 | Harris | 43.0 | 33.0 | 22.0 | 2.0 | 2,102 | TV-am |
| June 4 | Marplan | 44.0 | 34.0 | 20.0 | 2.0 | 1,576 | Guardian |
| June 3-6 | Gallup | 41.5 | 34.5 | 22.0 | 1.5 | 1,576 | Sunday Telegraph |
| June 4 | Marplan | 46.0 | 32.0 | 21.0 | 2.0 | 1,575 | Guardian |

ELECTION 87 X

A wet Walker bounds eagerly towards the winning post again

By Alan Hamilton

The rain is teeming down in stair-roads. Mr Peter Walker, coatless under an umbrella, bounds along a Worcester suburban street at the gallop; in front of him four party workers knock on doors to have the voters ready on the step to receive the candidate.

"Hello, how are things? All right? Jolly good", booms Mr Walker across the sleepy afternoon. Only one woman refuses an invitation to meet him; she is, she says, in the middle of making a bread pudding.

Mr Walker has been Worcester's MP for 26 years and enjoys considerable

personal standing in the constituency. He prides himself on the Saturday morning surgery he has held with unfailing regularity throughout his long tenure, and is approaching his 30,000th customer. Surgery is always followed by an hour of knocking on doors, election or no, in different parts of the city.

"This is my ninth election in Worcester. On every occasion my opponents have moved into the city a few months before, and disappeared afterwards never to be seen again."

He recalls a poll conducted by *The Economist* in 1979, soon after local and parliamentary elections were held on the same day. By comparing the two sets of

results it showed that Mr Walker had received a bigger personal vote over and above the Tory swing than any other MP.

In two weeks' time he will open a £60 million Japanese machine tool factory providing 700 jobs for Worcester, where unemployment runs at 12 per cent.

"They looked at sites all over Europe. I persuaded them to come here because of our good labour relations, large potential markets in the West Midlands, and our engineering tradition. Worcester has always been much more industrial than agricultural." He tells of a conference he staged in Worcester 18 months ago for people who wanted to start their own

businesses: no fewer than 300 turned up.

On the doorsteps of the neat "semitis" in the safely blue St Stephens ward he is asked several times what the Tories will do for the pensioners. He answers that in 1977-78 Labour cut social security benefits, including the pensioners' Christmas bonus, not because they wanted to but because they were forced to by their own ailing socialist economy.

His constant public theme is social development through a strong economy. In private, as befits the Secretary of State for Energy throughout the coal dispute, he warns to the theme of Mr Arthur Scargill.

"There were always four things that

Mr Scargill wanted: the return of secondary picketing; the avoidance of his having to stand for re-election; the abolition of nuclear energy; at a time when our oil and gas are beginning to run down; and the eradication of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. On all four he has now obtained Mr Kinnock's support.

"Do you realize that the UDM now represents nearly one-third of Britain's mineworkers? That's excellent news if only because I'm glad to say, Labour will lose Mansfield as a result."

He notes, although he does not make it a big issue in public speeches, that trade union leaders have been kept well out of

Labour's election campaign. "Not only the unions but the whole of the militant left have been keeping remarkably quiet. It follows the classic Livingstone GLC tradition: win the election first then kick out the moderates afterwards."

All the while he is proceeding up the rainswept street, while his workers encounter countless dogs and even more houses with no one at home. "The trouble is", a party worker says, "they're all employed in this street."

The wet Mr Walker, with a 10,871 majority last time, already appears home and dry in Worcester. The Cabinet, however, is another matter.

Alliance makes 'thoughtful vote' the main target

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Alliance leaders said yesterday that almost a third of the voters had not made up their minds how to vote and that, according to their private polls, half of those would prefer the Alliance to share power rather than to have a Labour or Conservative government.

Pinning their faith on what they called the "thoughtful voters", they predicted a strong surge of support for the Alliance during the last 48 hours of the campaign - just as they had often achieved in by-elections - as voters swung against the idea of giving the Conservatives "unfettered power".

Despite their apparent failure to make headway on the issue, Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel returned to the questions of constitutional reform with which they had opened their election campaign, saying that the central question in British politics was the introduction of proportional representation, first in local government and then in national government.

Dr Owen told a press conference in London that proportional representation was "the only mechanism to rescue the country from the

slough of despond". A Bill of Rights, a Freedom of Information Act, fixed-term parliaments and the like were not "airy fairy ideas" but the essential ingredients of good government.

Mr Steel said that as a coalition partner in a balanced parliament the Alliance would be willing to have a referendum on proportional representation immediately in local government and in elections to the European Parliament.

Once people had had the experience of voting in those elections "we would be certainly willing to put proportional representation for Westminster to a public referendum if we had to. We would do that with great confidence and we could get proportional representation for Westminster later in the same parliament."

The Liberal leader conceded that Labour had run a "splendid campaign", but only in "showbiz" terms. Now its policies were unravelling and coming to pieces in its hands.

He predicted that not only would the "undecideds" swing to the Alliance: So would

people who had previously intended to vote for Labour in constituencies where doing so would have no effect and, so would "One Nation" Tories who did not want to see Mrs Margaret Thatcher win too big a majority.

Mr Steel said: "The power of the Alliance is now in the hands of ordinary people. It is the power to deliver in government more of the policies that they want and less of the policies that they fear."

The Alliance, he said, was the movement with both a heart and a head.

Asked if the Alliance could get away with appealing to people's intelligence, Dr Owen said that to suggest otherwise was insulting the electors.

Dr Owen added: "There is a clear majority of people who believe in a market economy but also have a social conscience. There is a clear majority of people who believe in a sensible defence policy but don't understand why you should have eightfold increases in nuclear armaments."

"There is a clear majority for the values for which the Alliance stands, and yet it may be immensely hard to mobilize."

Wavering Winchester wooed

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen spent the penultimate day of the election campaign touring key marginals in the affluent South yesterday, urging wavering Conservatives to listen to their consciences and vote Alliance.

In the market places of Salisbury and Winchester, two hotly contested seats high on the list of Alliance targets, large crowds gathered to hear the SDP leader condemn the insensitivity of the Conservatives towards unemployment and the welfare state.

"We are saying to people who are prosperous that they have a responsibility for the unemployed and the health service," he said in Winchester.

"We are not trying to buy your vote. We are challenging your consciences. We are assuring you that it is possible to care about people and about costs, to marry a highly efficient, productive, market-oriented economy and at the

same time live up to our obligations to help the pensioner, the disadvantaged and the disabled."

In Salisbury, Dr Owen was narrowly missed by a tomato as he admonished Tory backbenchers: "You may have jobs here in Salisbury, you may not be facing severe unemployment. But what about your colleagues - those in Liverpool, those in the North, people who have been out of a job for three or four years. What's going to happen about them?"

He condemned what he labelled the WIM factor - What's In It For Me? - of the Conservative Party.

"You may buy some votes. You may buy enough votes in some constituencies. But there are many people who are in jobs, reasonably well off, who are ashamed of allowing a situation to continue where other people are not able even to contribute to society."

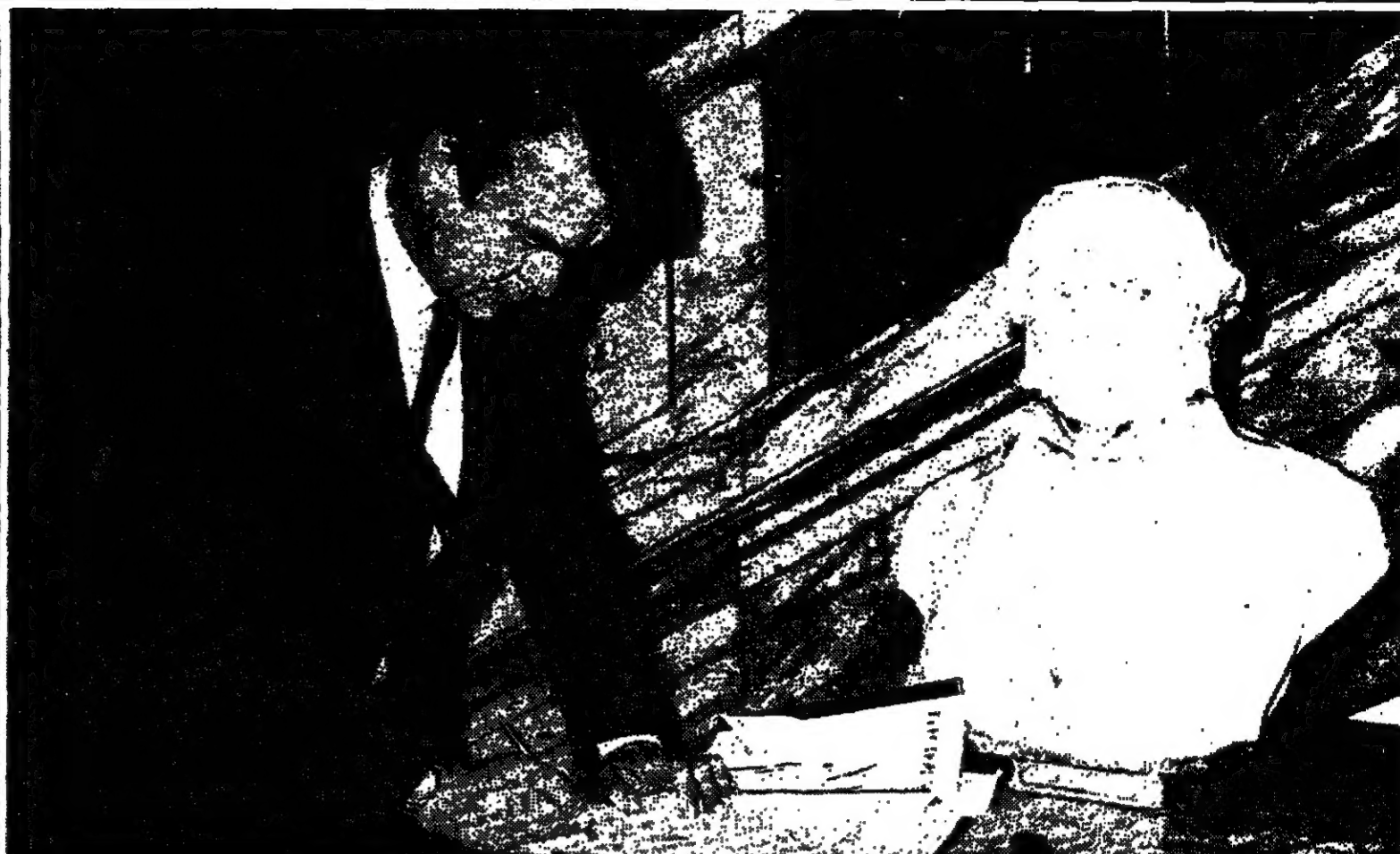
"These are not layabouts. These are not youngsters without any educational achieve-

ments. Some of them are people who left school with many O levels, some indeed with A levels, and still are unable to find a job."

"I make no apology whatever for coming to Salisbury, prosperous Salisbury, and reminding you of the problems of the other part of the country and I do not believe in this constituency that there is not a conscience that can't be awoken."

He said that the Alliance could awaken that conscience by talking sense. It was against unilateral nuclear disarmament, repeal of trade union reform and "clobbering" the police. "At the same time it is ready to see investment in education, health and other areas which most people in this country want."

He added: "You have a reasonable obligation to try to alleviate the hardship and distress which is the responsibility of this Government."



A stony glare from Gladstone as Dr Owen prepares notes for a press conference at the National Liberal Club in London (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Over-exposure to the Dewey factor

By Allan Massie

In the American Presidential election of 1948, the opinion polls showed Governor Dewey running ahead of his rival, Harry Truman.

Trying to account for the Governor's defeat in the actual election, the pollsters interviewed people who had said they would vote for him.

Many confessed that they had changed their minds at the last minute, when a picture of Dewey's smug face and neat moustache flashed before their eyes.

Labour's absolute reliance on Mr Kinnock's personality may backfire on them by bringing the Dewey factor into play.

He has hardly been off our television screens. No doubt this was a calculated gamble. Mr Kinnock had to make a deep and favourable impact if Labour was to win the election.

There is no doubt that in the first fortnight of the campaign he did just that. But it may have been overdone. He was good on television and his personality was pleasing, but it is beginning to grate.

He seems rather too pleased with himself now, with the danger that he could be looking as smug as Governor Dewey. If he is never stuck for words, he is sometimes, as a businessman told him on *Election Call*, at a loss for the answer.

MEDIA WATCH

Mrs Thatcher has rationed her appearances, probably to the benefit of her campaign. Her performance on *Panorama* was the most effective single show I have seen from any politician in the course of this election.

It could not convert those for whom she is "She-who-must-be-obeyed" and the Wicked Witch of the West rolled into one. But it must have stiffened a few sinews and brought thousands of the faint hearted back into the fold.

Sir Robin Day pressed her hard enough and delivered from her passionate and yet good mannered expressions of faith. It was riveting television. Everyone has personal

responsibility for his or her actions. Man is given freedom of choice. Time and again she came back to that.

What about the health service? Resources don't come from the Government, they come from the taxpayer. In 1979, every family of four was paying £11 a week to the NHS; this year they are paying £27.

You can only pay more for the health service if you create more wealth. There is an economic basis for every desirable action.

What then, asked Sir Robin, branding a report of the Church Commission, did she think was an acceptable level of employment?

There is no acceptable level of unemployment, she said, but let Sir Robin consider a few facts.

"We had suffered from massive overmanning, which was hidden unemployment. We cannot resist the technological revolution which destroys many jobs." She did, however, resist the temptation to say that if Mr Harold Wilson had really managed to loose the white heat of technology back in 1964, a good deal of the unemployment would have come sooner.

For 10 years we had had more school leavers than people retiring and, finally, "no government in the free world can guarantee everyone a

job". The Soviet system might - but at what a cost.

And the nuclear deterrent? Did not Chernobyl prove, as Mr Enoch Powell suggested, the madness of nuclear weapons?

She glowered at the mention of Enoch, but an argument started from the wrong place. Chernobyl proved the significance of nuclear weapons, which were even more of a deterrent as a result. Nato was a defensive alliance. "If there is no attack, there will be no war."

What about the chiefs of staff in the event of the Kinnock government? "They have to make up their own mind. Each person is responsible for his own decision. I know what I would do. I couldn't be responsible for the men under me in this situation."

If you missed the show but can happen on a record of Marlene Dietrich in the *Café de Paris* in 1955, you may get the feel of it. The real stars have the real authority. Mind you, stars can be dashed from their courses; they can be tough to live with. The French got rid of de Gaulle. That is the Aristides factor, the Greek statesman exiled by his fellow citizens because they were tired of hearing him call "the Just".

Who will come out on top tomorrow, Dewey or Aristides?

All-party boost for rights bill

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A large majority of candidates from each of the main political parties is in favour of a Bill of Rights, according to the results of a survey published yesterday.

At present both the Conservative and Labour Parties are officially opposed to such a reform.

The survey shows that of the 661 candidates who replied, 72 per cent of Conservatives, 79 per cent of Labour and almost 100 per cent of Alliance candidates are in favour of a Bill of Rights.

The survey was conducted by the lobby group Rights.

Correction

The nominations for Bedfordshire North published yesterday should have included Mr C. S. (OOBPC).

G. Kitchener is not standing as Green Party candidate in St. Ives. In Wexham the SDP/All came second in 1983.

The following constituency was omitted from yesterday's guide: ASHFORD, Electorate 70,052 (65,442). Speed, K. (C); Macmillan, N. (SDP/All); Wiggins, M. (Lab); Porter, A. (Grn); 1983: C. May 13,911 ("sitting member").

£70m campaign to unite all parties

Barely a month after tomorrow's election, politicians of all colours in Sheffield will be putting party differences aside for a campaign of a very different kind.

The city is the British contender to host the World Student Games in 1991 and a delegation will be travelling to present Sheffield's case to the games' ruling body on the eve of this year's event in Zagreb.

Sheffield is spending some £300,000 to project its bid. There are ambitious plans to spend up to £70 million on a building programme to provide the amenities and venues to satisfy the 7,000 athletes and officials if the city heads off expected competition from Rotterdam, Stockholm, Madrid and the USA.

All the main political parties have put their differences aside when they have perceived that the interests of Sheffield would be best served by unity in the bid for the games.

Unemployment in Sheffield stands at 16 per cent and in the last eight years 47,000 jobs have been shed in the steel industry; a further 20,000 jobs in the surrounding region have gone in the restructuring of the coal industry in the aftermath of the miners' strike, which badly dented the economy of Sheffield.

Apart from two brief periods of Tory rule, first in 1933 and then 1968, city council politics have been firmly socialist for the last 60 years.

low bus fares, for 12 years until deregulation of the cheap in the country. The council employs 33,000 people and argues that without its policy of sustaining a high level of public services, including contracts with 900 private sector firms locally, unemployment would be even higher.

As it is the city is £70 million above the Government's rate-cap limit. Labour argues that it has protected 7,000 jobs, but critics complain that the price has been in sky-high rates which have frightened business away.

There are six constituencies within the city and in five the majorities are so large that votes tend to be weighed rather than counted.

Sheffield Attercliffe, Brightside, Central and Heeley are all solid Labour strongholds with the smallest majority being 8,368 and the largest 16,790. The city council lead-

er, Mr Blunkett, inherits a majority of 15,209 in Brightside from the retiring left wing MP, Miss Joan Maynard. If Labour were to lose any one of those seats it would be a sure sign that the end of the world was at hand.

The only Tory island, both in Sheffield and South Yorkshire as a whole, is Sheffield Hallam. This takes in the leafier and more prosperous parts of the city and has been in the custody of Sir John Osborn. He retires from Parliament at this election after almost 30 years, leaving his successor, Mr Irvine Patnick, a local councillor, a majority of 11,774.

However, it is the sixth seat, Sheffield Hillsborough, home of one of the city's two football teams, Sheffield Wednesday, which is the most interesting constituency. It is the only one which has any chance of changing hands tomorrow.

Geographically it is the largest constituency in the city, covering almost half of its land area, with 76,000 voters. Before boundary changes in 1983 it, too, was a safe Labour seat. But at that election, rather against the national trend, Mr Martin Flannery, the sitting Labour MP, managed to hold on with a majority reduced to 1,586. This was a lead of just 2.8 per cent over the Alliance candidate, Mr David Chadwick, a local councillor and leader of the Alliance group on the city authority.

Labour has fought an intense campaign in the seat.

Both Mr Flannery's agent, his son Jim, and the Conservative candidate, Mr John Sykes, a local businessman, claim that the Alliance campaign has collapsed. It would, of course, suit both their aims to say that and the claim is vigorously denied by Mr Chadwick.

For Labour there are two doorstep issues. One is the transport concern, especially among the elderly and those on the far flung reaches of the constituency. The other is the party's promise to increase pensions and, for the worst off, to bring in a £5 a week special payment for the aged during winter. In a city notoriously cold it is an offer that many pensioners - and Sheffield has perhaps the highest percentage of elderly in the country - may find irresistible.

The Conservatives, however, say that the question of defence has been uppermost in those they have canvassed. They claim that many would-be Labour voters will be backing Mr Sykes as a protest against Mr Kinnock's policy.

The Alliance believes it has every chance of taking the seat if it can convince Tory supporters that the only way of ridding themselves of a left wing Labour MP is to cast their vote for Mr Chadwick. The candidate himself says that his performance in 1983 means people now believe he can win and a vote for the Alliance is not a wasted one.

Peter Davenport

Tough country for the campaigners

For Mr Ronald Bernie this has been a quiet election. No one has canvassed his opinion, not a single leaflet has been thrust through his letterbox and the keenest candidate has not succeeded in button-holing him for his vote.

As one of the duty guardians of the Muckle Flugga lighthouse north of Shetland, Mr Bernie has been loftily isolated, watching the ocean roll by from the top of his 200-foot tower, quite the most northerly and unapproachable voter in Britain.

A helicopter will arrive to supply a relief crew and remove Mr Bernie and his two colleagues to Lerwick in time for polling day, but endless hours scanning the grey waste of ocean have not guided him towards any great political certainties.

"We all got fed up with watching it on the telly," he said. How he would vote was a private matter.

This is tough country for politicians. Not only are communities separated by dangerous stretches of water but the two groups of islands also have sharply different views of the outside world.

Significantly, this is the only seat the Scottish National Party is not contesting.

either Scotland or the islands, but autonomy is next best and the SNP has never done well here.

Mr Goodlad is chief executive of the Shetland Fish Producers' organization. He had just returned from a two-hour voyage by fishing boat through boiling seas from the Out Skerries, a remote group of islands.

There he addressed 40 people while a force nine shook the community hall. "Central government should be a lot more responsive to matters of local importance," he said over the howl of the wind.

In the islands these issues were fishing, farming, fish farming and the knitwear industry all of which, in the

movement's view, would benefit from having stronger, locally based control.

The Government's community charge in place of rates was likely to be bad for both Orkney and Shetland and should be amended. So too should any EEC legislation over milk quotas that would oblige the islands to import milk when they were self-sufficient.

Autonomy has been a popular cause ever since the offshore oil industry appeared here.

Mr Goodlad is challenging Mr James Wallace, aged 32, the Alliance sitting member, who looks strongly placed to retain the legacy left by Lord Grimond.

With a 20 per cent lead over the Conservatives, the Liberal Party succeeded in winning support equally from both groups of islands.

Local fears about the nuclear industry and plans to bury waste in Orkney and Shetland and re-process radioactive material for the rest of the world at Dounreay on the mainland side of the Pentland Firth could be held against Mr Richard Jenkins, aged 36, the Conservative candidate, whose party is strongly perceived as pro-nuclear.

Mr Jenkins, an Orkney sheep farmer, concentrates on the future of the islands after the oil has stopped flowing into the Sullom Voe and Flotta terminals.

Mr John Aberdeen, aged 41, assistant principal at Storness Academy, aims to raise the traditionally low level of Labour support by promoting the party's employment policies which, he says, would bring at least 500 more jobs to the islands by trebling the home-building programme.

He also supports commitment to abandoning the fast reactor programme.

With such hostility towards the nuclear industry by three of the four main candidates, there would seem to be sparse pickings for Mr Grieron Collier, aged 43, who is campaigning for the Greens. Mr Collier argues that a vote for him would be a more emphatic "No" to the nuclear industry.

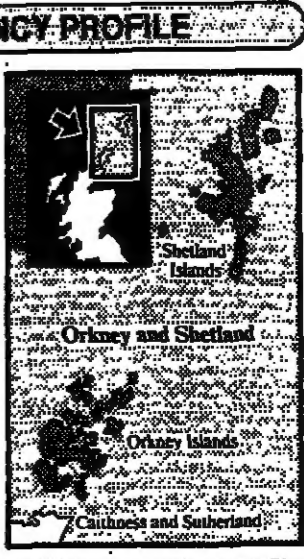
Ronald Faux

Orkney and Shetland

CANDIDATES
J. Wallace (L/All)
R. Jenkins (C)
J. Aberdeen (Lab)
J. Goodlad (OSM)
G. Collier (Grn)

1981 % Own vote 50.2
1981 % Loc Auth 29.0
1981 % Mid cl 37.3
1981 % Prof man 14.4
1986 electorate 31,130

1983 General Election: Wallace, J. (L/All) 9,374; Miles, D. (C) 5,224; Evans, Mrs W. (SNP) 3,147; Goodlad, Mr R. 2,885; May 4,150.



Where do the parties stand?

As the nation goes to the polls, here are the parties' latest positions on 21 key issues

Reporting by Roland Radd, Nicholas Wood and Michael Dwyer



| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| THE ECONOMY | Conquest of inflation first objective. Firm control of public expenditure. Government borrowing reduced. Competition increased. | National Economic Summit to identify what action Government, employers and unions need to take to increase investment and contain inflation. £3 billion borrowed to help pay for jobs and anti-poverty programme. | Incomes policy to control inflation with "inflation tax" to penalize companies paying large increases. Firms encouraged to pay wage increases through profit-sharing schemes. Independent Pay and Information Board set up to secure fairer public-sector pay. |
| EMPLOYMENT | Unemployment to be reduced through business expansion. Community and Jobs Clubs programme expanded; all school-leavers under 18 offered place on Youth Training Scheme or loan benefit; 18 to 25-year-olds guaranteed place on Job Training Scheme or Enterprise Allowance Scheme or in a Job Club within one year; Restart service available at six-month intervals to unemployed over six months. | Unemployment to be reduced by one million in two years. Jobs created in repairing and building of houses, hospitals, schools, the transport system and sewers. Annual cost: £6 billion. Statutory national minimum wage. | Unemployment to be reduced by at least one million in three years through a £3-4 billion reflationary package costed by independent auditors. Long-term unemployed guaranteed jobs through building and investment programme; recruitment incentive for companies; education and training programme; creation of new jobs in health and social services; expansion of job release scheme. |
| INDUSTRY | Support for denationalization and deregulation, extending competition. Support for the open multinational trading system against protectionist pressures. Spending on research and development to be directed towards areas of national priority. | Will create Ministry of Science and Technology, with more funds for research. Investment encouraged through British Industrial Investment Bank and a capital repatriation scheme. Long-term aim: more state control. | Industrial investment bonds introduced. National Insurance contributions cut by 25 per cent. Incentives for companies which spend more money on training. Office of Fair Trading to be strengthened. |
| INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS | Introduction of legislation enabling individuals to stop their unions calling a strike without first calling a secret ballot. Protection of individual trade unionists from disciplinary action for refusing to join a strike they disagree with. Election of union officials every five years by independently supervised postal ballots. Limit abuses of the closed shop. New safeguards on the use of union funds. | Union legislation repealed in favour of new laws strengthening legal rights of representation. Protection against unfair dismissal; employment protection to all workers. Right to hold secret ballots maintained; pre-strike ballots now part of official policy. Trade union membership restored to GCHQ. | Will extend postal ballots and internal elections; opposed to pre-entry closed shops. Disputes to be referred to independent arbitration, single-union no-strike deals to be encouraged. Trade union rights restored at GCHQ, single-union no-strike deals encouraged. |
| PRIVATIZATION | Continuation of programme, including water and electricity. | Existing programme to be halted. Private shareholders in British Telecom and British Gas to be offered choice of money back or new government securities. Policy of "social ownership" replaces nationalization. | Will not reverse present state of privatization, but against the further privatization of water and electricity. Will consider the privatization of British Steel. |
| HEALTH | Efficient health service first priority. New building schemes completed and others introduced over the next three years. Cervical cancer screening extended; national programme for breast cancer screening developed. Maintain freedom of choice between private and public sectors. | Promise of annual 3 per cent real growth in NHS spending and "significant" cuts in prescription charges. Pledge of clamp on private health care — phasing out of pay beds and doctors to spend less time on private work. Hospital waiting lists to be reduced by computerizing bed allocation. | NHS budget increased by £1 billion over five years; waiting lists reduced to maximum of six months within five years. Innovation fund set up to tackle inequalities in health care. People looking after elderly and handicapped in their own homes entitled to special benefit. |
| HOUSING | Home ownership increased; mortgage tax relief unchanged. Improvement grants targeted to least well-off. A right-to-rent sector will be encouraged; assured tenancies extended; housing benefit system revised. Tenants will be given the right to form co-operatives and the transfer of ownership. Reform of structure of local authority housing accounts. | Promise to spend £3.8 billion in first two years in power on house building, improvement and repairs. Mortgage tax relief maintained at standard rate of income tax. Right to buy maintained; council tenants to be given cash sum to help buy a private house; subsidy to be equivalent to discount under Tory right-to-buy scheme; receipts from council-house sales invested in new houses. | Partnership and rent-a-room schemes to expand rented sector. Selective housing assistance to those most in need. Mortgage tax relief limited to standard rate of income tax. Right to buy maintained; council house sales proceeds spent on new housing. Home incomes plan for elderly. |
| EDUCATION | National core curriculum with testing at ages 7, 11 and 14. State schools will be able to opt out of the LEA. Governing bodies and head teachers to control their own budgets within five years. Network of City Technology Colleges will be established. Assisted Places Scheme will be expanded to 35,000 and student numbers by 50,000 by 1990. | Private education to be dismantled, although unlikely to be completed in the life of a Parliament. Nursery education for all three and four-year-olds. Links between parents and teachers improved. Further education "maintenance allowances" for 16 to 18-year-olds. Teachers' negotiating rights to be restored. | Education, training and science to become one department. Negotiating rights restored to teachers. One year's pre-school educational experience for all. Schools to have full charge of their own budgets. Higher education places to rise by 20 per cent in five years. |
| TAX | Income tax rate to be cut to 25p in the £. Higher tax brackets reduced from current ceiling of 60 per cent to halt the brain drain. Veto on EEC proposals to end the right of individual countries to decide VAT exemptions. | Tax cuts reversed, wealth tax introduced. Married man's allowance and ceiling on National Insurance contributions scrapped, penalizing some families in £15-26,000 bracket. | Tax and benefit system and National Insurance contributions merged with income tax. No more tax cuts, married man's allowance frozen. |
| BENEFITS AND PENSIONS | Family credit for low-income families; framework of benefits for disabled people to be improved. Value of state retirement pension to be maintained; tax incentives for personal pensions. | Child benefit increased by £7.36 a week for first child and £3 for others. Maternity grant increased and new disability income scheme phased in. Long-term supplementary benefit rate extended to long-term unemployed. State earnings-related pension scheme restored. | Child benefit increased by £1 per child a week; maternity grant of £150 for first child; £5 a week increase in family credit. Creation of charter for disabled. £6 a week increase for poorer pensions. Christmas bonus doubled. |
| DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS | Continued membership of NATO. Retain independent nuclear deterrent, and modernize it with Trident. Continue to increase effectiveness of conventional forces. Support multilateral arms control negotiations. Maintain foreign aid programme to developing nations. Rejection of apartheid in South Africa, but no trade or economic sanctions. | Non-nuclear defence policy. Trident cancelled; US nuclear weapons removed; decommissioning of Polaris to be delayed if US-Soviet Union talks on intermediate-range missiles are followed by negotiations on strategic missiles. UK to remain in NATO and conventional forces expanded. Department of Overseas Development and Co-operation set up; aid budget doubled to UN target of 0.7 per cent. Comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa. | Almost certainly cancel Trident, maintain and modernize Polaris. Support for NATO and multilateral disarmament, dual-key control over cruise. Improve conventional defences. Increase overseas aid to reach UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. Selective sanctions against South Africa. |
| N IRELAND | Uphold Anglo-Irish Agreement. Continue to work for a devolved government involving Catholics and Protestants. | Support for Anglo-Irish Agreement; emphasis on economic renewal. | Supports Anglo-Irish Agreement. Reform of Diplock courts — three judges to preside over non-jury trials. |
| CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM | No plans. | Create Freedom of Information Act. Repeal Section 2 of Official Secrets Act. Create elected Scottish Assembly and Wales Economic Planning Council. | Proportional representation for local, European and general elections after referendum. Freedom of Information Act. Bill of Rights. Elected Scottish and Welsh Assemblies; fixed-term parliaments; reform of Whitehall, Commons and Lords. |
| RATES | Legislation to replace the domestic rating system by a fixed-rate community charge for local services, payable by everyone over 18, except the mentally ill and elderly people living in special homes and hospitals. | Abolition of Rates Act. Scottish poll tax legislation to be repealed. | Local income tax to replace rates. |
| LAW AND ORDER | Reintroduction of Criminal Justice Bill. Reform of law on extradition to assist fight against international terrorism. Increase police numbers. Strengthen law dealing with the sale and possession of offensive weapons. | More police on the beat. Crime-prevention grants for home-owners and tenants. Expansion of Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. | New Ministry of Justice to strengthen right to legal aid. Further 4,000 police officers on the beat; local police stations re-opened. Security grants to pay for Entryphones and security locks; introduction of Crime Prevention Units. |
| ENVIRONMENT | Commitment to maintain the Green Belt. Support for small-scale developments without damaging the countryside or its wildlife. | Creation of Ministry of Environmental Protection. Increased investment in land reclamation. Legislation to provide access to all common land. All forms of organized hunting abolished. New strategy for nuclear waste. | New Department of Environmental Protection to encourage "green" growth. Green-belt protection introduced, tough penalties against polluters. Energy efficiency and conservation plans. Freeze on nuclear power. |
| WOMEN | No plans. | Ministry for Women to ensure equal rights at work. | Equal representation for women on all appointed boards within a decade. Tax allowance to help with child-care; tax on workplace nurseries removed. |
| IMMIGRATION | "Firm and fair" immigration controls. New bill would make it easier to expel those who had overstayed their permitted time. | "Fair and firm" immigration control to ensure no discrimination on basis of race, colour or sex. | Need for immigration controls accepted, but would repeal part of the 1981 British Nationality Act. |
| AGRICULTURE | Continued support for reform of CAP. Support for early devaluation of the Green Pound. | Support shifted away from commodities in favour of farmers in need. Farms offered for rent; cuts restored. | Reform of CAP; revenue targeted to less favoured areas. Farm Bank will offer finance at reasonable rates. |
| SPORT | Encouragement for competitive sports in schools and colleges, and for use of their facilities by the local community. | Support Sport programme to provide resources for playing fields etc. Wider use of school facilities. | New ministry will take responsibility for leisure. Wider community use of existing sports facilities encouraged. |
| THE ARTS | Maintain support and continue to encourage private funding. Greater access to national treasures. | Creation of Ministry of the Arts and Media. Protection of BBC independence. 40,000 new arts jobs promised. | New ministry for the arts, broadcasting, films, publishing, leisure and recreation. Funding decentralized. |

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Why's the airport called Baltimore Washington? It's virtually half-way between Baltimore and Washington DC.

What's more, it's virtually as close to central Washington as Washington's own Dulles Airport. Our normal APEX return fare for this new service will be £469. But to celebrate the inauguration, we're reducing it to £131 until July 22.

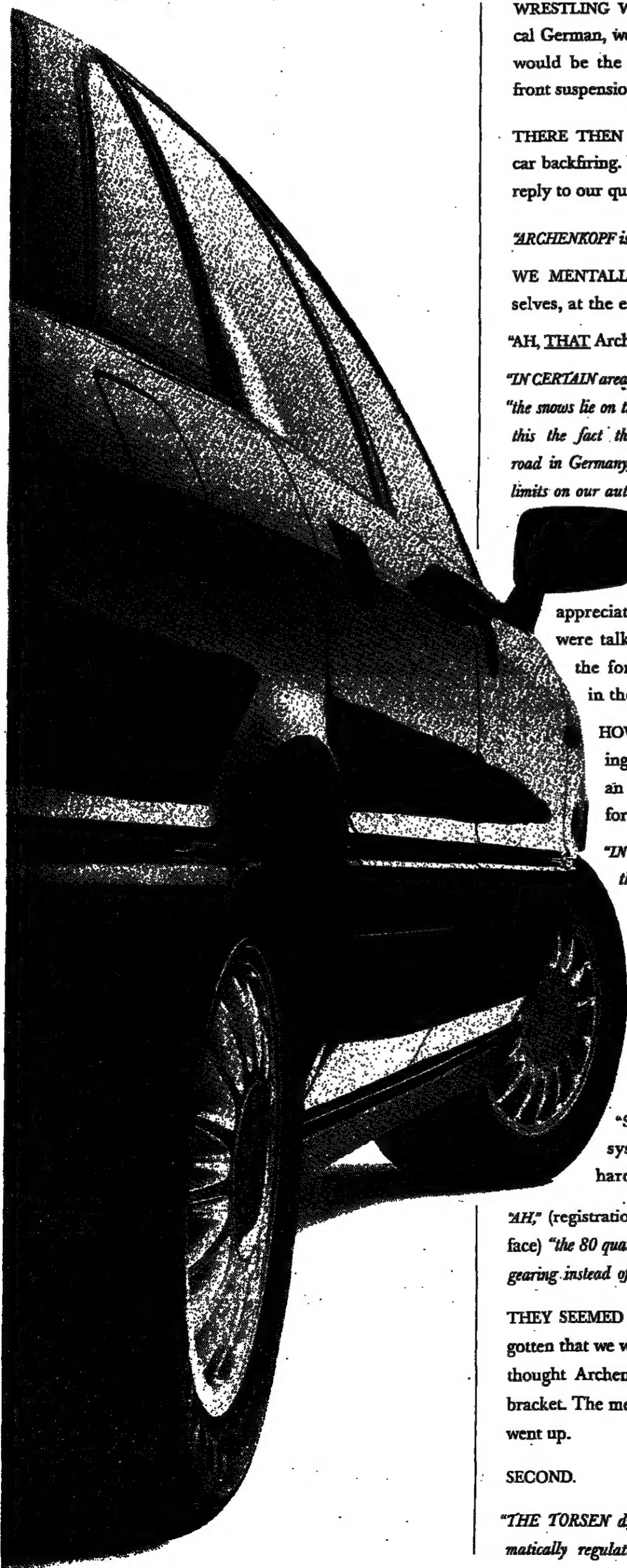
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WHY HAD THE ENGINEERS AT AUDI PRODUCED A QUATTRO VERSION OF THE 80?

FIXING US WITH AN ICY STARE, THEY REPLIED, "KENZENKOPF, DIENSTHÜTTE SCHWARZAU UND ARCHENKOPF."



WRESTLING WITH our limited technical German, we hopefully posed, "That would be the archenkopf behind the front suspension bracket?"

THERE THEN followed a noise like a car backfiring. Unfortunately, it was the reply to our question.

"ARCHENKOPF is a place."

WE MENTALLY inserted the word 'Dummkopf' ourselves, at the end of this statement.

"AH, THAT Archenkopf?"

"IN CERTAIN areas of Germany," they continued more patiently, "the snows lie on the ground for over six months of the year. Add to this the fact that there are thousands of miles of mountain road in Germany, we're the only European country with no speed limits on our autobahns, and the logic of a quattro 80 becomes impeccable."

AS IMPECCABLE as the Audi engineers' English accents, in fact. You have to appreciate that the particular Audi engineers we were talking to possess some of the foremost technical minds in the world.

HOWEVER, THEY were obliging enough to change down an intellectual gear or two, for our benefit.

"IN 1980, when we introduced the quattro system, it was

a feature unique to on-road cars. We then demonstrated its effectiveness both on the rally circuit and on the road. Now, less than eight years later, most of the world's major manufacturers have adopted a version of it."

WE, HOPEFULLY, adopted expressions of genuine admiration.

"SO WHAT makes the Audi 80 quattro system so different?" In retrospect, a fool-hardy question.

"AH," (registration of extreme delight on Audi engineer's face) "the 80 quattro uses a Torsen differential. This employs worm gearing instead of the usual bevel-type differential pinions."

THEY SEEMED to have completely forgotten that we were the simple folk who thought Archenkopf was a suspension bracket. The mental gear-changing now went up.

SECOND.

"THE TORSSEN differential is able to automatically regulate the torque distribution.



The basic geometric arrangement of the centre differential, with an equal torque split, is retained."

THIRD.

"THE NORMAL torque distribution between front and rear, determined by the design, can be varied by the Torsen differential."

FOURTH.

"IT FEEDS torque to the slower turning pair of wheels with the least amount of slip under acceleration, or the pair of wheels following a smaller radius in a corner, or those with the larger dynamic rolling radius."

WE ATTEMPTED to apply the brakes.

"HOW DOES this affect the handling characteristics?"

THEY SUDDENLY seemed to remember who they were talking to, and adopted the benevolent expression of a father gently explaining to his son the merits of not running onto a busy road without looking.

"WELL, SIMPLY, it's more suitable for high performance cars, and more compatible with ABS than some of our rivals' systems."

TO BE frank, the tone of their reply didn't seem to invite the question "Which rivals?"

"HOWEVER, IT'S also possible to relate other factors of the German environment to the development of the 80 quattro.

"FOR EXAMPLE, we have more miles of autobahns than any other European country and no speed limits, so the thinking behind the 80's excellent drag factor of 0.29 becomes clear.

"WE SPENT over 2,500 hours in a wind tunnel to achieve this."

WE ASSUMED the 'we' referred to the cars, although they were all of considerably sleek appearance.

"AND OF course, there's the German weather, and the amount of salt our countrymen like to lavish on the roads during winter. So we gave the Audi 80 a fully galvanised body. Galvanised steel is ten times more resistant to rust than ordinary steel."

"BUT THEN every detail of the 80 has been studied, from the grade of steel used on the boot lock key, to how the windscreen wipers might affect a pedestrian in the event of an accident."

"IN OTHER words," we offered, "everything has been subjected to 'Vorsprung durch Technik.'"

"VERY GOOD, you understand our philosophy precisely."

MERE WORDS cannot describe our elation at this point...



DER AUDI 80. VORSPRUNG DURCH TECHNIK.

THE NEW AUDI 80 STARTS FROM UNDER \$10,000. BROCHURES AND PRICE LISTS FROM AUDI INFORMATION SERVICE, YEOMANS DRIVE, BLAKELANDS, MILTON KEYNES MK14 5AN. TELEPHONE: (0908) 679121. EXPORT AND FLEET SALES, 95 BAKER STREET, LONDON W1M 1FB. TELEPHONE: 01-486 8411.

WORLD SUMMARY

Soviet pledge on atom inspection

Geneva — In tabling a new draft nuclear test ban treaty, the Soviet Union said yesterday that it will accept "unconditional and mandatory on-site inspection" by international teams for verifying compliance (Alan McGregor writes).

Mr Vladimir Petrovsky, deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, said that challenge inspection could be carried out "surely in less than one week". Mr Petrovsky, who put forward the Soviet bloc draft in the 40-nation UN disarmament conference, said that procedures for nuclear test verification differed from those necessary for nuclear test verification of chemical weapons, for which Moscow favoured the British initiative of explanations if suspicions were aroused.

Accused Flag plea 'not Ivan' to China

Madrid — The only Spanish survivor of the Nazi death camp at Treblinka has sworn before a judge that the man on trial in Israel for war crimes, Mr John Demjanjuk, is not "Ivan the Terrible" who operated the gas chamber pumps (Harry Debelius writes).

Señor Joachim García Ribes, aged 86, who escaped from the camp in Poland in 1943, gave his sworn testimony in Sabadell on Monday at the request of a court in Jerusalem, because he is too old and weak to make the trip to testify in person.

He said that "Ivan the Terrible" had a small head whereas the man on trial has a large head; and added that "Ivan" was 42 in 1943, so today he would be 86. Mr Demjanjuk is only 73.

New clash at the Wall

East Berlin — Rock fans clashed with police early yesterday for the second consecutive night when they were barred from hearing the last concert of a three-day rock festival outside the Reichstag, across the Wall in West Berlin (John England writes).

About 2,000 fans protested at police barriers in the Brandenburg Gate area. Some threw fireworks and bottles at the police, who retaliated with truncheons and made about 50 arrests.

Views on Özal in Falklands air mishap

Buenos Aires (Reuters) — Britons gave their views yesterday on Argentine state television on the Falkland Islands dispute, and most of those portrayed criticized Mrs Thatcher's stance on the disputed islands.

"I don't see the point in Britain keeping the Falklands. I think it's stupid," one middle-aged woman on a London street said during the "vox pop".

One young man said: "There should have been at least an attempt at negotiations" during the bloody 10-week war in 1982. Others said the islands rightfully belonged to Britain and that Argentina had blown the dispute out of proportion.

Istanbul (Reuters) — Mr Turgut Özal, the Turkish Prime Minister, escaped unhurt when his private jet crash-landed at Ataturk Airport here, airport authorities said yesterday. An electrical failure forced the jet taking him to Ankara to turn back 20 minutes after take-off on Monday night.

The Prime Minister's spokesman, who was on the plane, said that all the lights went off, but Mr Özal remained calm. He was helped out through the pilot's window as the aircraft filled with smoke. The pilot was quoted as saying that the electrical failure failed at 1,500 feet, cutting communication with the ground.

Pope jolts Polish regime as he criticizes communism

From Roger Boyes, Lublin, Poland

The Pope yesterday praised a murdered Solidarity chaplain as a model for all young priests, as he catalogued the deficiencies of communism and touched on his own hopes of spreading the Christian faith to the Soviet Union.

He made his comments on the second day of a seven-day pilgrimage to Poland in an address to the Catholic University of Lublin, the only Catholic university in the communist world, where he himself studied.

The Pope, who had prayed on his knees at Majdanek concentration camp, only seemed at his ease yesterday, when addressing young ordained priests in Lublin. This occasion gave an unpleasant jolt to the authorities when the Pope named Father Jerzy Popieluszko — murdered by the secret police and glorified by communist officials — as one of a number of Polish priests who were worthy of emulation.

Coupling Father Popieluszko's name with that of St Maximilian Kolbe, the Pope made clear that he will fight for the memory, perhaps even the beatification, of the Solidarity chaplain.

Lublin, in parts still an attractive city, was the farthest east and the closest to the Soviet Union that the Pope had travelled. The Soviet border lies only a few miles from where the Pope was speaking. He thus understandably stressed the importance of the christianization of Slav countries and held out his hopes of bringing all of the Eastern bloc, including the Soviet Union, back into the Christian orbit.

The papal hint, however, was veiled; a planned trip to the Soviet Union is still a distant, if coveted, prospect. For the time being, Lublin is as close as he will get.

In his speech, he also said that the university should "think over many questions of social life, structures, organization of labour, all the way to the very premises of the contemporary state organism from the point of view of the future of the young generation in Poland". In other words: the communist system was not answering any of the social problems raised by intellectuals or suffered by young people.

Pollution of the environment and the freedom of learning were also key subjects dealt with by the Pope yesterday. His pilgrimage — the third to Poland — is thus developing into a much more political affair than expected.

The approach is not to challenge the communist leadership directly — he is after all the guest of the Polish leader, General Jaruzelski — but the system of belief that underpins it.

Again and again, the Pope is saying that the communist system is incapable of satisfying spiritual demands and that Poles must stay with God if they want real change.

"The freedom of human spirit is threatened not only theoretically but also by practical issues, by the system and scale of values. By an ethos (or anti-ethos) that is one-sidedly technocratic, by the spread of consumerism, and by various kinds of totalitarian systems."



The Pope arriving yesterday at the wartime Nazi concentration camp of Majdanek in eastern Poland.

Fawn Hall defends her Marine boss at Contra hearing

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Miss Fawn Hall, the former White House secretary who has provided a gripping and detailed portrait of an attempted cover-up in the Iran-Contra affair, yesterday fiercely defended Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the enigmatic Marine who was her boss.

Her testimony has been devastating to Colonel North, a fact that seemed to pain her. Congressional investigators believe she has said enough for prosecutors to build a strong criminal case against the Marine for destroying and smuggling away secret documents.

At times she seemed to be apologising directly to her former boss, whom she helped to destroy incriminating evidence. "I believe in Colonel North," she said.

Miss Hall told how Colonel North worked 12-hour to 14-hour days, often not leaving the office until midnight or later and rarely taking lunch. She described him as a man deeply dedicated to his country, a man not motivated by money, greed or power.

She said he showed no anger after President Reagan fired him from the National Security Council when the scandal was being exposed. Miss Hall, however, cried.

She was asked during her second day of testimony to the Iran-Contra hearings on Capitol Hill to cast some light on the motivation and personality of Colonel North, who was variously described by congressmen as an "enigma" and "mystery man". She rejected the word "zealot", saying that he was a positive person who did not like to give up. When

there was a crisis, he was the man called on to handle it.

She confirmed that he was a prime planner of the Grenada intervention. He had taken part in efforts to eliminate the death squad problem in El Salvador. He was involved in planning the US bombing of Libya, in attempts to free American hostages in Lebanon, and in fighting terrorism against Americans.

But it was her testimony about the attempted cover-up that gripped investigators. She told for the second day yesterday how she had stifled secret, incriminating National Security Council documents in her boots and under her clothes and smuggled them out of the office after it had been sealed off by the FBI.

She acknowledged that in the panic of events last November she and Colonel North's deputy, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Earl, agreed not to disclose that they had removed documents. Her testimony has dispelled any suggestion that President Reagan and Colonel North were in frequent contact.

She said that documents she shredded on instructions from her boss included logs of telephone calls and coded messages from his operatives.

Miss Hall is testifying under a grant of immunity. Colonel North has also been granted limited immunity and is expected to testify publicly next month. He is already in legal trouble. Court papers revealed yesterday that he was held in contempt of court last month for refusing, on constitutional grounds, to provide a sample of his handwriting.

Full texts of the communiqués from the Venice summit

Venice (AP) — The following are the texts of declarations on East-West relations, terrorism and the Gulf War issued yesterday at the seven-nation economic summit here:

EAST-WEST

We, the heads of state or government of seven major industrial nations, and the representatives of the European Community, have discussed East-West relations.

1. We reaffirm our shared principles and objectives and our common dedication to preserving and strengthening peace.

2. We recognize with pride that our shared values of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights are the source of the dynamism and prosperity of our societies. We

renew our commitment to the search for a freer, more democratic and humane world.

3. Within existing alliances each of us is resolved to maintain a strong and credible defence which threatens the security of no one, protects freedom, deters aggression and maintains peace. We shall continue to consult closely on all matters affecting our common interests. We will not be separated from the principles that guide us all.

4. Since we last met, new opportunities have opened for progress in East-West relations. We are encouraged by these developments. They confirm the soundness of the policies we have each pursued in our determination to achieve a freer and safer world.

5. We are following with

close interest recent developments in the internal and external policies of the Soviet Union. It is our hope they will prove to be of great significance for the improvement of political, economic and security relations between the countries of East and West. At the same time, profound differences persist; each of us must remain vigilantly alert in responding to all aspects of Soviet policy.

6. We affirm our commitment to peace and increased security at lower levels of arms. We seek a comprehensive effort to lower tensions and to achieve verifiable arms reductions. While reaffirming the importance of nuclear deterrence in preserving peace, we note with satisfaction that dialogue on arms control has intensified and that more favourable prospects have emerged for the reduction of nuclear forces.

We appreciate US efforts to negotiate a balanced, substantial and verifiable reduction in nuclear weapons. We emphasize our determination to enhance conventional stability at a lower level of forces and achieve the total elimination of chemical weapons.

We believe that these goals should be actively pursued and translated in concrete agreements. We urge the Soviet Union to negotiate in a positive and constructive manner. An effective resolution of these issues is an essential requirement for real and enduring stability in the world.

7. We will be paying close attention not only to Soviet statements but also to Soviet actions on issues of common concern to us, in particular Poland.

We call for significant and lasting progress in human rights which is essential in building trust between our societies. Much still remains to be done to meet the principles agreed to and commitments undertaken in the Helsinki Final Act and confirmed since.

We look for an early and peaceful resolution of regional conflicts, and especially for a rapid and total withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan so that the people of Afghanistan may freely determine their own future.

We encourage greater contact, freer interchange of ideas and more extensive dialogue between our people and the people of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

8. Thus, we each seek to stabilize military competition between East and West at lower levels; to encourage stable political solutions to regional conflicts; to secure lasting improvements in human rights; and to build contacts, confidence and trust between governments and peoples in a humane world. Progress across the board is necessary to establish a durable foundation for stable and constructive relationships between the countries of East and West.

TERRORISM

We, the heads of state or government of seven major democracies, and the representatives of the European Community, assembled here

in Venice, profoundly aware of our peoples' concern at the threat posed by terrorism:

Reaffirm our commitment to the statements on terrorism made during the previous summits in Bonn, Venice, Ottawa, London and Tokyo;

Resolutely condemn all forms of terrorism, including aircraft hijackings and hostage-taking, and reiterate our belief that, whatever its motives, terrorism has no justification;

Reaffirm the commitment of each of us to the principle of making no concessions to terrorists or their sponsors; Remain resolved to apply, in respect of any state clearly involved in sponsoring or supporting international terrorism, effective measures within the framework of international law and in our own jurisdictions;

Welcome the progress made in international co-operation against terrorism since we last met in Tokyo in 1986, and in particular the initiative taken by France and Germany to convene in May in Paris a meeting of ministers of nine countries, who are responsible for counter-terrorism;

Reaffirm our determination to combat terrorism both through national measures and through international co-

operation among ourselves and with others, when appropriate, and therefore renew our appeal to all like-minded countries to consolidate and extend international co-operation in all appropriate forums;

Will continue our efforts to improve the safety of travellers. We welcome improvements in airports and maritime security, and encourage the work of ICAO and IMO in this regard. Each of us will continue to monitor closely the activities of airlines which raise security problems. The heads of state or government have decided on measures, annexed to this statement, to make the 1978 Bonn Declaration more effective in dealing with all forms of terrorism affecting civil aviation;

Commit ourselves to support the rule of law in bringing terrorists to justice. Each of us pledges increased co-operation in the relevant forums and within the framework of domestic and international law, apprehension and prosecution of terrorists.

In particular, we reaffirm the principle established by relevant international conventions of trying or extraditing, according to national laws and those international conventions, those who have perpetrated acts of terrorism.

GULF WAR

We are agreed that new, concerted efforts on the international level are required urgently to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end.

We favour the earliest possible end to the war and keeping the territorial integrity and independence of Iran and Iraq intact. Both countries have suffered grievously from this long and tragic war.

Neighbouring countries are threatened with a possible spread of the conflict. We call once more upon both parties to negotiate an immediate end of the war.

We strongly support the mediation efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General, and urge the adoption of just and effective measures by the UN Security Council.

With these objectives in mind, we reaffirm that the principle of freedom of navigation in the Gulf is of paramount importance for us and for others, and must be upheld.

The free flow of oil and other traffic in the Strait of Hormuz must continue unimpeded. We pledge to continue to consult on ways to pursue these important goals effectively.

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French tackle record drink problem with TV ads ban

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The French Government has decided to ban all advertising of alcoholic drinks on television and radio in a bid to reduce France's world-record consumption of alcohol which it blames for soaring health costs and the annual carnage caused by drunken driving on French roads.

Alcoholic drinks will continue to be advertised in the written press, on posters, and in the cinema, but the publicity will be subject to strict controls, including a compulsory accompanying message stating that the product in question should be drunk in moderation.

Draft legislation imposing the ban was introduced into Parliament yesterday by way of an amendment to the Government's Bill on drunken driving, which seeks to double the present penalties for driving with over the legal limit of alcohol in the blood.

Drunken drivers causing fatal injury could face up to four years' imprisonment.

Alcohol is said to have been responsible for nearly 5,000 of the 11,000 deaths on French roads last year. It was also directly responsible for another 20,000 deaths from cirrhosis of the liver.

In addition, alcohol is said to be a leading contributing factor in 60 per cent of premeditated homicides and 20 per cent of all serious crime in France.

Although French per capita consumption of alcohol has halved over the past 25 years, it still remains the highest in the world, excluding Luxembourg, where duty-free frontier sales artificially inflate the statistics.

In 1985 the equivalent of 13.3 litres of pure alcohol per inhabitant over the age of 14 was consumed in France, double the rate in Britain.

Last month the Government was reluctantly forced to raise contributions to France's state-run health insurance scheme — despite its pledge to reduce the burden of taxation — as part of an emergency package of measures to reduce this year's forecast deficit of 24 billion francs (£2.4 billion) in the overall social security fund, of which the health scheme is a part.

Alcohol abuse was blamed for being an important contributory factor to the soaring health costs.

Smoking was also blamed, and a 2 per cent increase on all tobacco prices has been imposed from August 1 this year, the proceeds of which will go directly into the health service fund.

All radio, television and cinema advertising of tobacco has been banned in France for the past 10 years. Tobacco

advertising in the press is also strictly controlled.

Despite these restrictions, the proportion of regular smokers in France has fallen only from 44 per cent to 38 per cent over the decade.

There was an outcry from doctors and many MPs when the Government decided last year to allow the advertising of alcoholic drinks up to a certain alcoholic content on the newly created television channels, but the new legislation will annul this provision.

However, nothing has been done to limit the indirect advertising of alcohol and tobacco on television, where the heroes and anti-heroes of French fiction will continue to booze and smoke as much as before.

The private television channels are already protesting that the new ban could reduce their revenues by up to 10 per cent.

Greenpeace boat rammed in warship protest



An Australian police launch rammed the Greenpeace ketch Vega in the Brisbane River yesterday. Greenpeace was protesting at a visit by the American guided-missile frigate USS Ramsey, which the environmental group claimed was carrying nuclear arms (AP reports from Brisbane).

The Vega spread an anchor chain across the mouth of the river, where the Ramsey was to arrive.

"The Vega could have been sliced in half if we hadn't pushed it out of the way," police said. "They were endangering the lives of everyone on board." Three members of Greenpeace were arrested.

The Ramsey is visiting Australia for the 45th anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Midway, which stopped the advance of the Japanese in the Pacific during the Second World War.

Mujahidin claim rise in Soviet casualties

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

More than 120 Russians have reportedly been killed in recent clashes with Afghan guerrillas — including a well-known Soviet pilot — bringing the weekly Soviet death toll in the conflict near to that suffered by the Americans in Vietnam.

The claims of rising Soviet casualties came amid heavy fighting between Soviet forces and Mujahidin guerrillas around the Afghan capital of Kabul, according to Western diplomats in Delhi.

The pilot killed was said to be a man called "Rushkov", described as a well-known figure in Kabul. His plane was reportedly shot at on June 1 as it attacked a Mujahidin position and crashed while trying to reach Bagram base.

It should, however, be noted that the claims for Russians killed are usually attributed by the diplomats to "Afghan sources" and a good deal of caution is necessary.

The worst incident in the past week took place in Baghlan province, to the north of the country, where the diplomats quote an Afghan "who has reported reliably in the past" as saying that on May 30 the Mujahidin overran a big Soviet base in Khinjan, killing 80 Russians and capturing two. Khinjan is at a crucial junction on the road from the Salang tunnel, north of the Hindu Kush.

The day before, diplomats quoting a "knowledgeable Afghan source" said that, at Qalacha Sokhta in Parwan province south of the tunnel, Mujahidin, mainly belonging to the group led by Mr Burhanuddin Rabbani, killed between 30 and 35 Russians and captured 12.

On June 2, along the same Salang road at Ahanagar, Mujahidin were reported to have attacked a convoy, destroying two or three armoured vehicles and killing seven Russians. Two more Russians were reported killed when a post was attacked in Qaladzi, only five miles west of Kabul.

Diplomats say that during the month of May they have also counted 29 confirmed reports of aircraft being downed by Mujahidin fire.

"We exclude from this count several reports of which we are sceptical," said one diplomat yesterday, "and we emphasize that the total is not all-inclusive".

Tamils in Jaffna braced for attack

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

Residents of Sri Lanka's northern capital, Jaffna, are expecting the armed forces to launch an attack any day to capture Jaffna from Tamil guerrillas, according to reports reaching Colombo.

The Sri Lankan Government has kept silent on reports of a curfew in some areas of Jaffna and of troops advancing on Jaffna.

The Government's media centre said yesterday that the operations in Keerimalai and Navadipuram in the Jaffna peninsula were over.

Meanwhile, in Colombo, President Jayawardene told the Government's parliamentary group that the Indian action last Thursday, when air supplies were dropped on Jaffna despite the Government's protest, was the 21st time that a foreign power had invaded Sri Lanka in the island's history.

He said the Sri Lankan Government has no means of resisting India's unilateral action physically. "I have informed my people not to retaliate in any way," he added.

About 8,000 people marched to India House, the official Colombo residence of the Indian High Commissioner, to hand over a petition yesterday asking India to respect the island's territorial integrity and not to bully the small nation.

● DELHI: With military action continuing in the northern Jaffna peninsula of Sri Lanka, India is keeping up the political pressure on the Government of President Jayawardene (Michael Hamlyn writes).

The Indian External Affairs Ministry yesterday showed a number of foreign correspondents a video film said to have been made in Jaffna town itself during aerial bombing and rocket raids made on May 27 and 28.

At the same time, the Indian spokesman said, contacts were continuing between the two governments aimed at establishing agreed "modalities" whereby India's relief aid may be given to the suffering Tamils.

The spokesman added: "We are concerned at the continuing military operation which will naturally result in the tragic loss of human life. We would urge restraint. There can be no military solution."

Threat to deal on cheaper air fares

From Richard Owen, Luxembourg

A provisional European Community agreement on cheaper air fares reached in March is in danger of collapsing. European Commission officials warned yesterday, unless EEC ministers reach swift agreement on the rest of a proposed package liberalizing air transport in Europe.

Officials said consumers had long awaited such a deal, but the package had to stand or fall as a whole.

Yesterday air transport ministers became bogged down in the details of a long-delayed package involving not only discount air fares, but also increased access to the European market by airlines, including new carriers, fewer restrictions on an airline's ability to pick up or set down passengers at airports within the Community on their way to their final destinations, and increased use of regional airports for flights within Europe, including flights to the regions from capital cities.

This last proposal for transnational "hub-to-region" flights brought stalemate at yesterday's meeting, with Denmark, Greece, Spain and

Italy all demanding exemptions. Britain and The Netherlands are still fighting for a liberalization package and fully support the Commission's view that airline passengers in Europe are "charged too much and given too little choice".

Mr Herman de Croo, the Belgian Transport Minister, who chairs the Transport Council until the end of this month, is said to be a disheartened man, but ministers have a final chance to reach a deal under the current Belgian presidency of the Community on June 24.

The stagnation in Community policies can be attributed to some extent to fear in Brussels of doing or saying anything likely to have an effect on the imminent elections in Britain, Italy and Portugal.

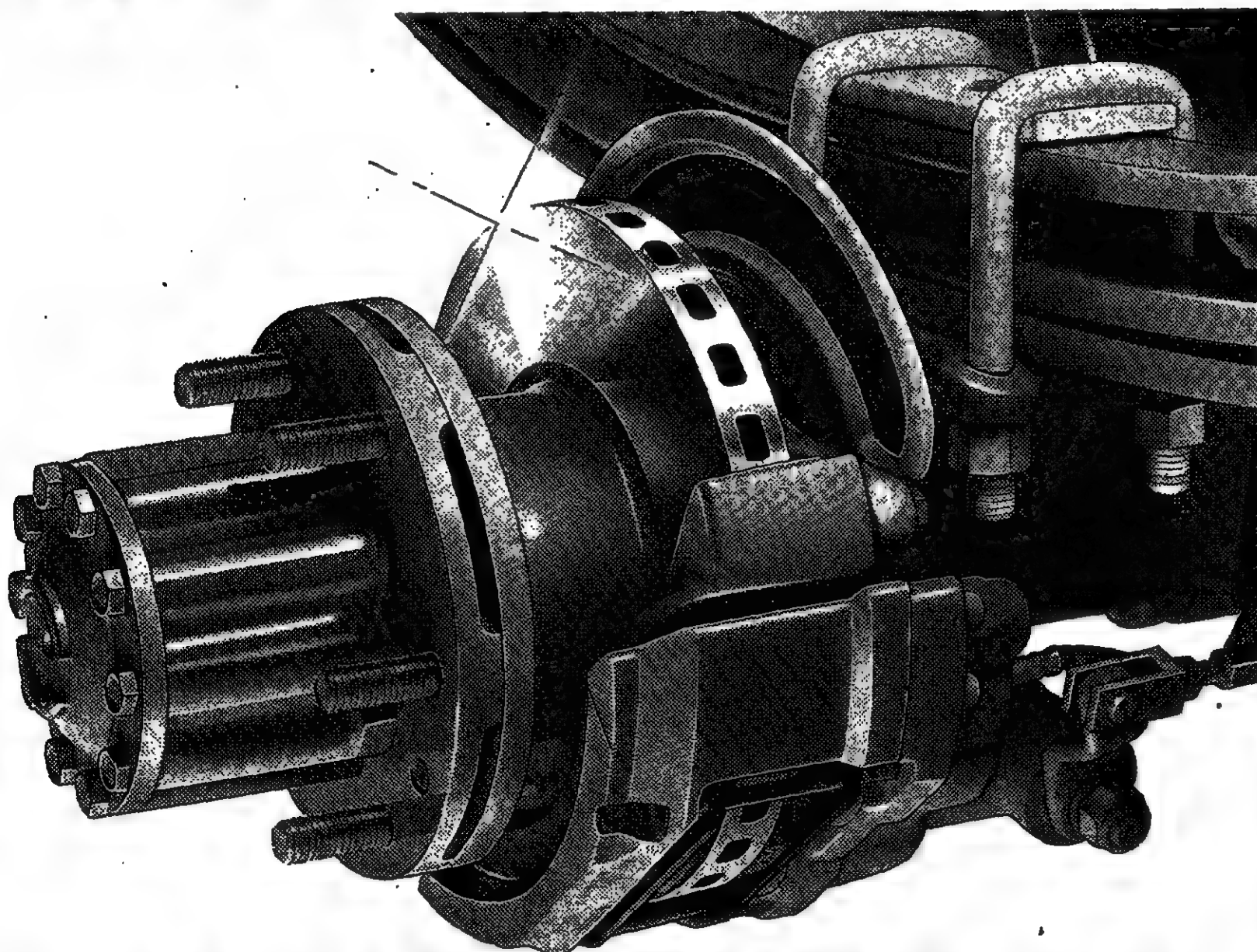
Officials denied, however, that the absence from yesterday's air transport meeting of any British minister had held matters up. Britain was represented by civil servants who were fully briefed and fully empowered to take decisions.

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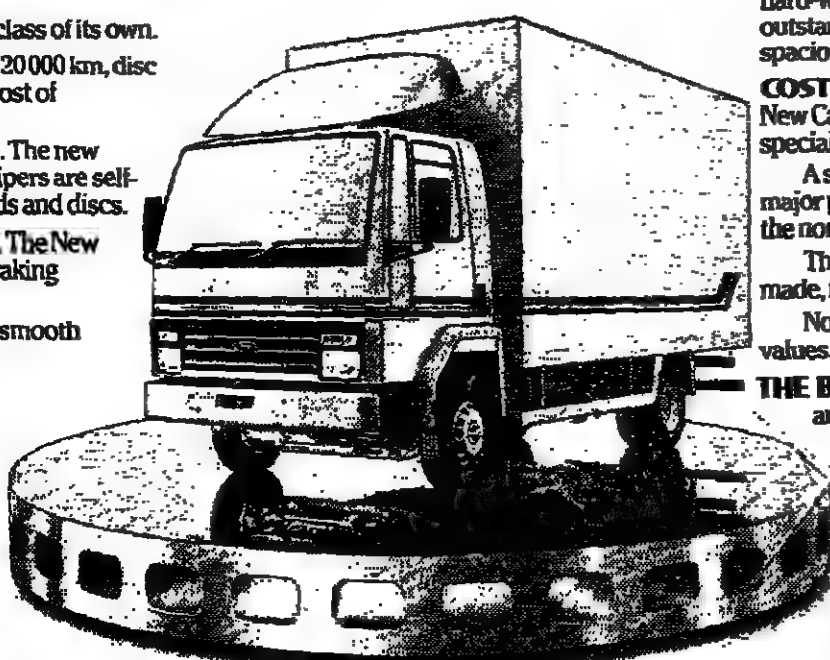
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Ponzález plays his EEC card in a bid for big victory in local elections

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

In a series of efforts by Señor Ponzález, the Spanish Vice Minister, to secure re-election in the local government and in the local elections have dominated the last 48 hours of campaigning.

He adopted a presidential, José de Gaulle-like, tone, "I am sending" to the 28 million eligible voters Socialist, Liberal, and other parties in the 13 of Spain's 17 self-governing regions going to the polls today.

Keeping aloof from any disputes or scandals and from his own Government's recent troubles, Señor Ponzález took what his aides call an "institutional approach," maintaining that Socialists alone could safely secure the longer-term modernization of Spain.

Any advance, he implied, either the right-wing Popular Alliance, now under the leadership of Señor Antonio

having to vote on a third ballot paper, choosing directly for the first time Spain's 60 Euro-MPs. Señor Ponzález was able to play the EEC card heavily in his party's favour when addressing mass rallies in Madrid and Seville, both Socialist strongholds now under threat.

Making his party's last television appeal on Monday night, Señor Ponzález started with a flashback to the moment of national unity when the Spanish Parliament voted unanimously for the country's EEC accession treaty.

At his rallies the Prime Minister repeatedly praised Señor Fernando Morán, the former Foreign Minister, who completed Spain's entry and who now heads, with undoubted popularity, the Socialist candidates' list for Strasbourg.

"Forward. We will triumph on Wednesday as a great nation," he said, "my fellow countrymen." Señor Ponzález concluded the Seville meeting. But at the meeting his deputy, Señor Alfonso Guerra, attacked Señora Soledad Becerra, the Popular Alliance contender for Mayor and former Centre Democrat minister, because she is married to an Andalusian aristocrat.

Señor Suárez, closing his energetic 18-day campaign in Madrid, claimed that his

Centre Party was now the only alternative to an increasing Socialist takeover of all positions of power and influence in the country.

Señor Antonio Hernández Mancha promised no further increases in local government taxes but fresh schemes to promote jobs for the young and for fighting drug abuse.

Señor Gerardo Iglesias, the Communist leader, now heading a broad United Left Front, at his final campaign meeting appealed openly to all discontented and disappointed Socialists to vote for the Front.

After Spain's first democratic local government elections eight years ago, the Communists helped the Socialists achieve power in many big cities. Now, however, after the inevitable wear and tear in office, the Socialists are striving for absolute majorities they had achieved in many cities in the 1983 elections, to avoid the need for fresh alliances with the Communists.

The mixed bag of forces and personalities seeking to become Spanish Euro-MPs today range from Señor José María Ruiz Mateos, the former Rumasa business empire owner, to the Basque extreme left-wing Nationalist Popular Unity coalition and political wing of Eta.

Round-up of Seoul opposition by police

From David Watts, Seoul

The South Korean authorities have rounded up hundreds of government opponents to forestall protests today as the ruling party meets to name President Chun Doo Hwan's successor.

The opposition National Council for a Democratic Constitution is planning a rally in the centre of Seoul, to coincide with the Democratic Justice Party's convention, calling for dialogue on the Constitution and a more democratic government. The National Council, composed of opposition politicians, dissidents and religious figures, is labelled subversive by the Government and out to "destroy the constitutional administration".

Last night the approaches to the British Embassy which is close to Seoul's Anglican cathedral, the rally's focal point, were blocked by the police and security men were checking potential rallyists. So far some 2,604 have been detained, 1,329 sent for summary trial, 410 booked for further investigation and more than 800 warned.

Forty-eight university campuses were searched yesterday, together with offices of opposition organizations. The Government said the day's hunt included 40 firebombs and 62 sticks.

The Government will monitor the presidential election set for December. The Democratic Justice Party rally will take place in the Chamsil indoor stadium next to the Olympic Stadium.



A South Korean student aiding a fellow-protester injured by a tear-gas canister in clashes with riot police yesterday at Seoul's Yonsei University, where an anti-torture rally was held.

Aids test ordered on prisoners in America

Washington — All prisoners being discharged from federal jails are to be tested for the Aids virus (Christopher Thomas writes).

All incoming prisoners will also be tested, as will immigrants and illegal aliens applying for residence under an amnesty programme.

The new rules were announced by Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney General, who described them as a reasonable and compassionate approach to a serious public health problem. An Aids clearing-house is to be established to help officials at risk through contact with offenders.

Plot fails

Accra (Reuters) — Ghana police claim to have foiled a fresh plot against the Government of Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings and detained a number of people.

Art held

Washington — Haiti, trying to recover assets allegedly stolen by former President Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier and his associates, has won a court order placing a temporary hold on seven crates of rare Haitian art stored at a warehouse in Washington.

Freed by Cuba

Washington (NYT) — Cuba will release 348 current and former long-term political prisoners after a request from the US Catholic Conference.

Smelt a rat

Belgrade (Reuters) — Mrs Sava Gilin has been charged with the attempted murder of her husband, Aleksandar, by serving him meatballs containing rat poison.

Many millions

Sacramento (Reuters) — California's state lottery has turned 20 people into dollar millionaires in the past seven weeks, a pace that officials said is probably a world record.

Our town

Brandonville, West Virginia (AP) — Mr Clarence Fike, the confident mayor of this tiny town (population, 80), left names off the ballot papers for yesterday's civic elections and told everyone they could vote for themselves.

Coalition mixture as before in Greenland

By Christopher Follett

Two weeks of post-election political uncertainty in Greenland ended yesterday with the formation of a new left-wing government under Mr Jonatan Motzfeldt, leader of the territory since it gained home rule from Denmark in 1979. The administration is a continuation of the coalition between Mr Motzfeldt's centre-left Siumut Party and the small Inuit (Eskimo) Party that ruled Greenland before he elected late last month.

Siumut now has 11 seats in Greenland's 27-seat home-rule Parliament and the Inuits four. The right-wing opposition Atassut Party has 11

seats and the new pro-privatization Polar Party one.

Greenland's new Government was formed after a political crisis.

The previous coalition collapsed after Mr Motzfeldt turned down an Eskimo demand for a government committee to monitor modernization of the Nato early-warning radar system at the US base at Thule. He has now agreed to the demand.

The Soviet Union says the radar has an offensive use, in violation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972, but America insists it is purely defensive.

A stinging nettle amid the Socialist carnations

By Roger Boyes

The British Labour Party is not the only party to say it with flowers. The Italian Socialists have been giving away red carnations at their party congresses, using charming girls at this year's Rimini meeting to hand over bouquets. Next time, say the cynics, it will be drum majorettes.

The red carnation — symbol of purity, soft and a little thorny, fragrant and cheaper than roses — is exactly how the Socialist Party sees itself. But the popular image of the party is now dominated by the forceful figure of Signor Bettino Craxi, whose nearest floral equivalent is the stinging nettle.

He has, in the past few years of capable premiership, become a big man, perhaps too big for his small party. Physically, he resembles one of those oversized Bernini statues of long-dead popes in St Peter's Basilica. Intellectually, he is streets ahead of other leading politicians, with the clear exception of Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Christian Democrats' grand old man.

Since taking over the party leadership in 1976, Signor Craxi has edged away from the shadow of the Communists and presented the party as a "socialist alternative". He has shed the trappings of a dogmatic leftist party — there is no



longer a "central committee", there is no hammer and sickle on the party insignia. And he has built up the role of party secretary.

Signor Craxi's aim has been to make the Socialists indispensable in a country that is frustrated with the bipolarism of Christian Democrats

versus Communists.

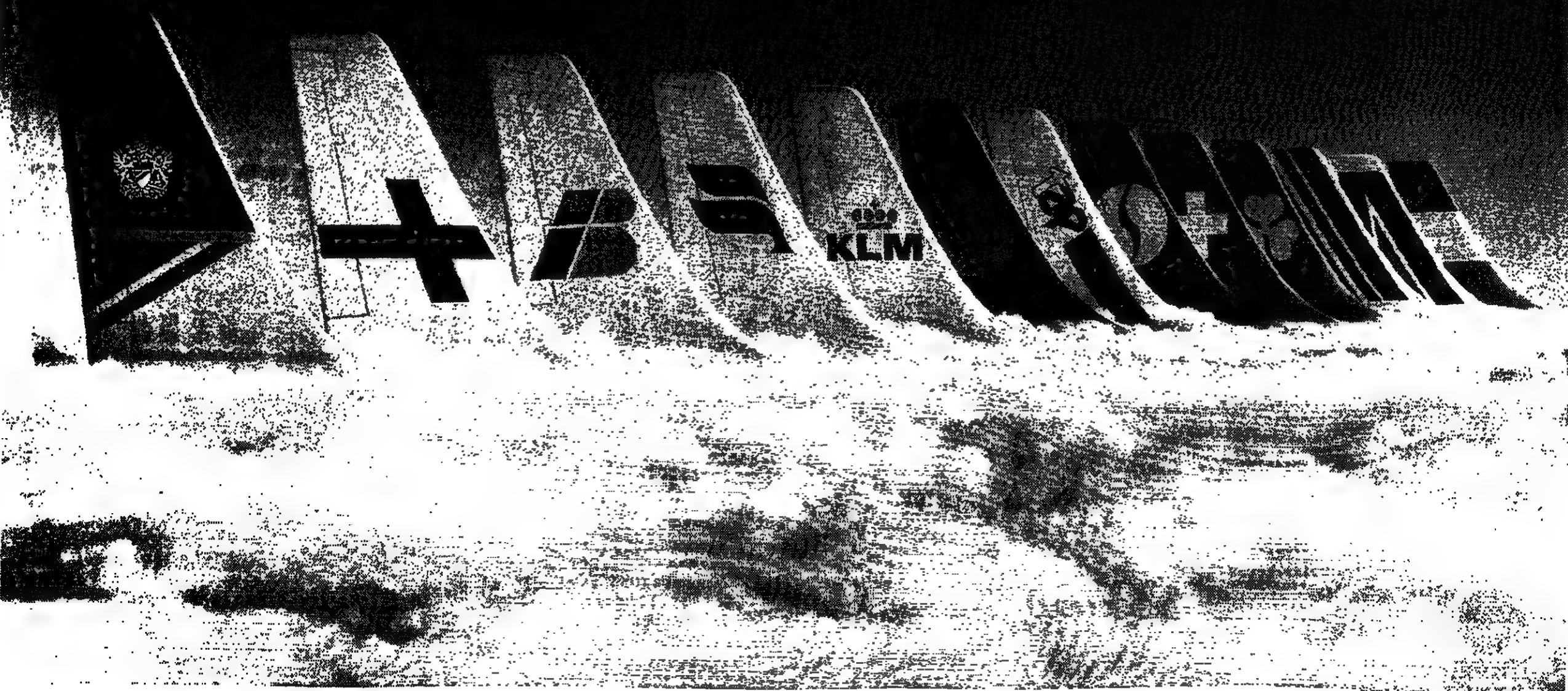
This is his great achievement. In the past when the Socialists were allied to the Christian Democrats, they lost votes; and when they were linked to the Communists, they lost votes. Now, by Signor Craxi's insistence on the premiership, by constantly defining a different stance (sometimes misjudging the mood — as when he was the only party leader to advocate negotiations with the Red Brigades) he has given the party an identity. By and large that identity is related not to policy but to his personality.

The tragedy of Signor Craxi is that he is not in command of a mass party. All his mannerisms, all his posturing, all his tactical brilliance has

still not brought him beyond 11 per cent of the popular vote. Partly this is his own crucial failing as a party manager (even his deputy, Signor Claudio Martelli, is a better campaigner than organizer) and the grass roots are somewhat out of touch with the centre.

Signor Craxi understands Parliament, has the critical distance of a man who lives in Milan but works in Rome, but he is not good at setting up communication channels within his own party, nor at drumming up support from youth movements. Cartoonists who like to compare Signor Craxi with Mussolini have got it wrong. His party is doomed to remain small, but pivotal.

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THE TIMES DIARY

ying for the V & A

The trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum have, I understand, whittled down the band of Roy Strong's would-be successors to a shortlist of three: Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, Richard Marks and Edmund Capon. They face a further grilling by the trustees in their five-year plan for the museum. Mrs Esteve-Coll, currently keeper of the museum's library, would be a popular choice among the staff and has the experience of the board is looking for. Marks, 41, is curator of the Victoria and Albert Museum, having been its reputation as keeper of the Victoria and Albert Museum, having been its reputation as keeper of the Victoria and Albert Museum, having been its reputation as keeper of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

tail or farewell?

nd of term party or end of office? Speculation over Lord Alton's intended date of departure from the Lord Chancellor's office has been mounting since he issued unprecedented invitations to a drinks party at home on election day. His hospitality surprised those who believed he would stay in the job until the end of the year to oversee the completion of his review of the law. While others wondered whether or not he was edging his bets about his immediate future, Sir Michael Havers and Lord Mackay of Clashfern are considered front runners to succeed Hailsham, 80 in October.

Wait for it

Although the draft polling register compiled each October is supposed to weed out the 16 and 17-year-olds, I am told that one or two may have slipped on to the final version and have received polling cards by mistake. But they should not be tempted to use them tomorrow. The penalties if caught are high: apart from being disqualified from all sorts of voting or up to five years, persons of any variety can be fined an unlimited amount and go to prison for up to two years.

Former Olympic cox Colin Moynihan, defending a 1,900 Tory majority in Lewisham East, was admitted to Greenwich Hospital on Sunday after reacting badly to medicine. He escaped yesterday. Reassuringly, the last campaigner hospital patient, Labour's George Howarth, won the Knowsley North by-election.

Summing up

The Alliance's time could yet come, but it may take ten years. Helen Williams, who is eight, tells me she has taken an opinion poll of her class in Chelmsford which shows the Alliance romping ahead with 16 supporters (55.17 per cent) to Labour's eight (27.58 per cent) and the Tories five (17.25 per cent). With primary school children working out percentages to two decimal points, let me no lecture you about falling educational standards.

Freepost

Some election workers appear to have loosely interpreted the legislation allowing them to send each voter one item publicizing their candidate through the post. A factory in West Yorkshire was charged 33p by the Post Office - a second-class postage plus a 10p surcharge - after receiving an appeal for funds from Pudsey Conservative Association in an unstamped envelope. The association says it was an oversight and all the other letters sent to local businesses were paid for. The Conservatives are not alone: an election communication has turned up here from the Labour Party in Nottingham stamped: "33p to pay. Posted unpaid."

Filled in

Soviet fears that the CIA is capable of planting microphones in almost anything have reached new heights. A dentist in New York's 43rd Street, close to UN headquarters, says that his Russian patients now have to submit to X-rays by the mission's KGB staff after major dental work. This is to check that transmitters have not been implanted in their gnashers.

Party games

Kent schoolchildren have raised playground games to a new political level. Primary school pupils in the heart of the county's green walled land are ardent players of a version of blind man's bluff called "Denis and Margaret", in which the group encircles two children. One is blindfolded and ordered to find her husband. She is only allowed to call out: "Are you there, Denis?" when standing still, allowing him to reply: "Yes, dear, I'm here". In between questions, when she is allowed to move, she is gradually able to locate him. The penalty is that if Mrs Thatcher takes too long in the search, the couple are booted out of the circle and two more move in. Labour supporters, take note.

The Conservative Party proposes to free schools from local authority control. And naturally the proposal has caused a storm of protest. Giles Radice, the Labour Party spokesman on education, dismisses the idea as not only unworkable but also unpopular with all interested parties. Teachers' unions, local authorities, educationists and even the Confederation of Parent Teachers Associations, have spoken out against it. And who is for it, Mr Radice asks, other than a few odd parents (with the emphasis on the "odd")?

Well, who are these few odd parents? Consider Haringey Parents' Association. Unlike the Confederation of Parent Teachers Associations, which is dominated by teachers and activists, this is a genuine grassroots institution, founded by parents in order to express their real concern and outrage at the abuse of local authority power.

Its members are not those who would normally wish to waste their time in politics but ordinary decent people, driven to fight against an intransigent left-wing bureaucracy. I suspect that far from being a "few odd parents", they represent the very core of moderate and sane opinion in the borough of Haringey. And they would welcome any move to free their local schools from the control of an authority which despises their values. (Which is why Bernie Grant, the former council leader, said to them: "You are not real parents" - real parents, for the Stalinist left, being those who surrender their children to the care of others.)

Nor is Haringey Parents' Association the only grassroots

Power to the real parents

Roger Scruton questions the motives of those who oppose Conservative plans to end local authority control of the schools

organization which would welcome the proposed reforms. All of the following have expressed views and preferences which are hostile to the existing system of control: The Campaign for the Improvement of London Teaching Standards, Christians in Education, Parents' English Educational Trust, the Campaign for Real Education, the Parent Alliance for Choice in Education, York Parents' Association, the National Association in Support of Small Schools, Education Otherwise, the National Grammar Schools Association - and no doubt many more. So far as I know, all are genuine associations, involving concerned parents of all political views, whose aim is to secure an education for their children in accordance with their wishes.

This aim, it must be said, is emphatically not shared by the NUT - which seeks a form of education that will be in accordance with its wishes, and which defines those wishes through the sub-Marxist gobbledegook of its leadership. Nor is it shared by the local education authorities, whose desire in this matter is the wholly natural one of holding on to as much power for as long as possible, regardless of those who wish to wrest it away. Nor is it shared by the educational bureaucracy, nor by those supposedly "autonomous" bodies such as the Confederation of PTAs, Parent and Alpag (All

London Parents' Action Group), which pretend to speak for parents but in fact speak only for their activist members. (Alpag, for instance, was set up by a group of left-wing activists, including Bubbles Poloya, Labour member of the Inner London Education Authority, whose rubbishy projects it has supported throughout.)

If all those bodies are raising their voices against Mr Baker's proposals, it is for the good reason that they have something to lose from their implementation. Between them, they constitute precisely that amalgam of vested interests, political posturing and bureaucratic corruption which has brought the state educational system to its present sorry pass and has provoked an unprecedented grassroots reaction among parents right across the country. (Anyone who doubts that should get hold of the newsletter just issued by the Campaign for Real Education, 18 Westlands Grove, Stockton Lane, York.)

For what, in effect, is the result, in present conditions, of local authority control? First, the constant interference in the classroom for political ends (witness Brent and Haringey). Second, the fixing of admission quotas, and the removal of sixth forms, in order to prevent good schools from threatening the provision of an "equal opportunity" throughout the borough (witness the case of Highbury Grove School).

Third, the increasing move

towards the independent sector, with parents in some cases establishing their own schools outside the state sector (witness the case of John Loughborough School in London). Fourth, the persecution of teachers by local authority fanatics (Miss Maureen McGoldrick), or by others concerned to Stalinize the local education system (witness the cases of Ray Honeyford and Jonathan Savery). Fifth, the "official investigation" of a school whose old-fashioned standards of attainment and discipline proved offensive to the LEA cadres (the ILEA in Southwark). Sixth, the increasing secularization of schools by left-wing authorities who regard all forms of religious worship and assembly as inappropriate to our multicultural society. (Indeed, it is part of the Labour Party programme completely to secularize the state system.)

In the face of those, and many more, abuses we are driven inevitably to ask: why not free the schools? Why not enable heads to control their own establishments? Why not allow good schools to grow without fear of losing their sixth forms? Why not allow parents to send their children to schools which they themselves have chosen, secure in the standards, the values, and the religious instruction there provided? And why not allow trust to grow between parents and teachers, free from the vigilance of jealous activists, and unimpeded by the self-declared "expertise" of bureaucrats whose principal concern is not to advise but to control?

Those are the questions that Mr Radice should answer.

The author is editor of The Salisbury Review.

Jo Grimond Floaters still for wooing

The eve of the poll. What can candidates do in the last few hours of an election campaign? Very little, but not nothing. There are still people who have not yet made up their minds how to vote. Some of these floating voters are particularly important to the Alliance.

There is the class of those who feel at the back of their minds that the mould needs breaking but are not yet convinced that it is safe to pin their hopes on a new party. There are those who would like to see more signs of success in the Alliance before voting for it. And there are those who are primarily interested in some single issue to which the Alliance gives prominence - Scottish devolution, for example.

Alliance candidates have no doubt in these last few hours that they will be setting their caps at the type of undecided voter who is important in their own constituency. They should emphasize that a general election in Britain is not about electing a government. It is about electing an MP to represent the people and communities of a particular constituency and to criticize and question whatever government is elected.

Old tricks should not be forgotten in these last exhausting hours. A show with banners and loud-speakers is not to be despised, and everyone is cheered up by a good tune and jolly colours. Despite the amount of time and space devoted to the election on television and in the press, the number of people who still know nothing about the issues, and do not especially care, should not be underestimated. They are more likely to be won over by showmanship than by argument.

The old-fashioned eve of the poll meeting seems to be on the wane. I wonder if this is wise. Its impact is limited, but if it goes well it perks up supporters and encourages them to "get the vote out". Then there is the possibility that tomorrow may not be the end of this particular road. In the event of a hung parliament, there could be another general election within 18 months. The troops must be kept in good heart.

I thought John Grigg had a good point on this page last Friday, particularly with the Venice summit bringing into prominence the question of Britain's place in the world. This had not been much mentioned during the election campaign and may be at the back of many people's minds. The Falklands played a great part in the last Tory victory and since then Mrs Thatcher's visits to Washington and Moscow have been well publicized, but many will have been worried by the Libyan affair.

Most of these people are not in the least anti-American but are disturbed by certain aspects of American policy and would be reluctant to feel that we were being pulled along too readily at their heels. Europe is still the field where our influence must chiefly lie. But it has not featured much in this election.

The blindness of the other parties to what may be called the "Gaulist" factor in people's political thinking stems from a lack of imagination which has marked their campaigns. Imagination is often seen most vividly in small matters, indeed in obvious and common-sense suggestions. I think in particular of two suggestions which to me are symptomatic of a suppleness and simplicity in the thinking of the Alliance which I greatly welcome. The Alliance approves of the sale of council houses (except for those built specially for such people as the old) but would insist on the money being used by local authorities to build or renovate more houses. This seems to me so obvious a provision that only someone dazzled by worship of a reduction in the public service borrowing requirement could fail to see it.

The other example is the abolition of standing charges for telephone calls. This would do much to help those poor people who are forced to economize on telephone calls, heating and lighting but are charged what amounts to a poll tax by the highly profitable monopolies.

The Tories tried over the weekend to savage Labour for its taxation policies. It would indeed be absurd for the state socialist party to pretend to be against high taxation, but it has been under the Tories that taxation has reached the highest point ever.

The voters know full well that income tax is not the only impost from which they suffer. Most people are hurt more by indirect taxation. If the electorate appreciated what the new local government poll tax will mean, that alone, I reckon, would lose the Tories the election. There is also the point that it is not only the weight of taxation but the unfairness and the complication of it which irks so many people.

I read that Mrs Thatcher is to play a leading part in the final stages. I would expect that. It may mean, however, that the Tory campaign will finish with a rather hectoring and shrill flourish. This has happened in the closing stages of previous general elections, and lost the Tories many votes. People do not like being shouted at, nor do they like being told they are stupid if they vote for anyone but a Conservative.

The Alliance would be wise to finish on a comparatively low key as far as abuse is concerned but to strike very hard on its main claim that a new departure is needed, and that the mould must be broken.

I am not sure that I want a prime minister who appears to be a combination of hit-and-biker and family butcher. That seems to be the favourite mixture recommended by the Alliance parties' public relations adviser. I would prefer a sharper leadership. I also believe, as I have said before, that even now the Alliance should play the team harder.

The author was leader of the Liberal Party, 1956-67.

Conor Cruise O'Brien looks beyond the glibness and the clowning and finds Neil Kinnock a leader with real power over his party

Last Friday morning I sat in Neil Kinnock's election office in Transport House listening to him answer questions about Sinn Fein and the IRA. No, a Labour government would have no contact with Sinn Fein. A Labour government would fight the IRA, not party with it. Yes, individual members of the Labour Party had had contacts with Sinn Fein. This was well intentioned but mistaken. The Labour Party, under Mr Kinnock's leadership, would not move in that direction.

I was impressed by those words, and by the plain and earnest manner of their delivery. Mr Kinnock did not sound at all like the "prisoner of the hard left" which his opponents seek to portray. Also, I thought these were brave words, not just politically, but in an elemental sense.

Sinn Fein-IRA - one entity, not two - had been encouraged by Ken Livingstone and others to believe that a future Labour government would enter into negotiations with it. By slamming the door on that expectation, Mr Kinnock automatically acquires some extremely dangerous enemies. And if he were the mere waffle artist which some of his opponents try to represent him as, he would have avoided closing that door, let alone slamming it.

In this election the question of Sinn Fein-IRA is, of course, at most a marginal issue. All the same, it is a test of character, for a Labour leader, granted the attitudes of the Labour left. And in my book, Mr Kinnock comes through that test with flying colours.

Like many another I had underestimated Kinnock. When I first met him he was taking over from Michael Foot I took him for an amiable lightweight. Amiable he still is. But I don't think anyone today who watches him closely - as I was doing all through last Friday - would be likely to write him off as a lightweight. True, he can still say some pretty daff things - like that one about "occupied Britain" - and his general style is a lot lighter than that of most contemporary politicians. Occasionally, among his own, he even likes to clown a bit. But behind all that, and generally though not always, in charge of it - is a sharp and confident intelligence.

On Friday night at Granby Halls, Leicester, I watched Mr Kinnock in action before a huge crowd of Labour supporters. At first I was not particularly impressed. On the previous days I had been attending some of the Alliance rallies: sober and cerebral affairs with an open question-time (not quite open actually, since all the questions were pre-selected). A Kinnock rally is something else: full of exuberance, razzmatazz and comradely warmth, and no damn nonsense about questions. On Friday, there were some preliminary speeches, by minor figures, from an initially Kinnockless platform. These speeches were so wooden as to appear in retrospect like a deliberate foil to the leader's impending performance.

Then Mr Kinnock made his entrance, to a raged kind of fanfare and, with most, though not all, of his audience standing for him. Smiling broadly, he started with a series of party political one-liners. I didn't think they were all that funny but Mr Kinnock enjoyed them and so did his audience. "He's on a high, isn't he?" said a reporter beside me. Perhaps he was, but he seems able to carry his audience with him on it.

Then, without transition, Mr Kinnock went into the serious part of the speech: a sustained and cumulative attack on Thatcherism, especially in relation to unemployment and health. The obvious theme, of course, and bound to go down well with that audience. Yet there was a lot more to the occasion than that. Mr



Putting new bounce into Labour

Kinnock spoke with genuine, controlled and measured passion and his audience responded to him as an audience does on those very rare occasions when it finds its own inner feelings articulated by a master.

About speeches, I am as biased as the next man, or a little more so having been exposed to an enormous amount of oratory, in every known national style. And the only speech I ever heard that I can think of as being more powerful than that of Mr Kinnock's at Leicester on Friday is Fidel Castro's address to the United Nations General Assembly in September 1960. (Mr Kinnock may not be all that grateful to me for that particular comparison at this particular moment. But never mind: we are talking about oratory, not about ideology.)

That Mr Kinnock is a notable orator is beyond question. But how important is oratorical capacity in the late 20th century? Certainly no orator in modern Britain, however splendidly gifted, could hope to achieve anything like the impact of Gladstone in Midlothian or Lloyd George at Limehouse. The national impact of Mr Kinnock's Leicester speech seems to have been nil. Partly this may have been due to the way in which most of the media have been covering his campaign.

I got a sample of this, right after that Leicester speech, aboard the Kinnock bus. A reporter was telling his office about the meeting which had just ended. I took down the reporter's words, which ran as follows: "Kinnock led the chorus in the Red Flag... yes, I'll get every little bit in. I don't want again."

That was all. "Getting" Kinnock - with "every little bit" - rather than reporting him, is clearly the name of the game.

(An American friend of mine, who has been covering this election campaign from the beginning, declared himself shocked by how slanted most of the press coverage of Kinnock has been. This friend is the editor of a newspaper in St Petersburg, Florida, and no more of a wild-eyed radical than might be expected from a person in such a position. His sense of shock at

the extent of the slanting was professional, not ideological. In any case even if the coverage had been more objective, oratorical prowess could hardly get across nationally today. Even some of those who know that Mr Kinnock is a good speaker actually seem to hold this against him. A taxi driver in Nottingham told me what he thinks about Kinnock. "Talks very well, he makes me sick. Ban the bomb and all. And borrow everything."

If you don't like Labour in the first place, you won't like Mr Kinnock any better, but only worse, for being good at putting across the Labour line. But the real significance in contemporary politics of Mr Kinnock's oratorical power may not be all that grateful to me for that particular comparison at this particular moment. But never mind: we are talking about oratory, not about ideology.)

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Party in from the cold. Within the party, such a result would consolidate the enhanced authority he has won for himself during the campaign. And in Parliament also he should emerge a considerably more formidable leader of the opposition than he has been up to now.

To some extent, Mr Kinnock's expanding charisma should operate to offset the constitutional gains of the left within the Labour Party. At a time of weakness in the central leadership, the left managed to ensure a kind of hegemony for the general membership of the party, and of the annual conference, over the parliamentary party. But once a leader emerges who can exercise authority, not only over the parliamentary party but also over the general membership and the annual conference, then that hegemonic constitutional shift ceases to have much ideological significance.

Whether Mr Kinnock can ever lead the Labour Party completely in from the cold is open to question. Labour, with its assent in the past, has encumbered itself with some policies - notably unilateralism - which may perhaps never prove acceptable to a majority in Britain. And Mr Kinnock may be unwilling to do the necessary disencumbering. Unwilling or unable, although I believe that if he were willing he is now strong enough, and clever enough, to find a way to disencumber.

Past gains by Labour's left may be hard, though perhaps not impossible to repeal. New gains by the left are very unlikely. The Alliance leaders left the Labour Party because of the rot that had set in. But it is Mr Kinnock who has stopped the rot. The Alliance and the Tories deny that he has stopped the rot; or suggest - much more plausibly - that he has stopped it too late. Whether he has stopped it in time or not, only time itself will tell. But that he has stopped it seems to be undeniable.

Mr Kinnock's achievements seem to deserve more recognition than they have received from most of the media. He has taken on the far left and pushed it back. He has revitalized its party. He has communicated to it something of his own zest, and moved it back into the democratic process as bringing new hope to many for whom the Thatcher years have not been kind.

You don't need to be an uncritical supporter of the Labour Party to feel that Neil Kinnock has made and is making an important contribution not merely to his own party, but to democracy itself.

however... Richard Heller

Just a cheque for this mate

"The engagement is announced between..." Suddenly the name of a friend leaps off the social page. What are one's first reactions? Typically, pleasure, relief, surprise at the revelation of the friend's exotic middle name. But what next? Only one possible sensation: is there no heart which has not plummeted at the thought of Buying the Wedding Present?

I do not begrudge the cost of the thing, though I do think that Mr Lawson should make wedding presents tax-deductible and so help to redeem the government's pledge to support family life. It is simply that buying a wedding present is one of the scaliest tasks known to man. For boredom it eclipses Sir Geoffrey Howe on the EEC budget. For frustration it exceeds the fitting of a small spare part to a British car.

Before buying a wedding present you ask the happy couple if they have a "list" at some store. No store offered is anywhere near you, forcing you to make a special journey miles out of your way. At the store you have to find the "Brides Book" - the department store equivalent of Fortress Falklands, buried in some remote windswept outpost and obliging you to battle through hordes of hostile foreigners. Having located the book you discover (if you know only the future groom) that it is arranged alphabetically by surname of bride, which you fail to remember, and only by proceeding sequentially through each listed couple do you discover that the fiancée's name is Zybowski.

You now consult the couple's chosen merchandise and discover that almost all the cheaper items have been eliminated from the list by meaner-minder, fletter-footed friends. None the less you find on the list some just-bearably-priced item of china or glass or kitchenware or linen or glass or kitchenware or something that you cannot eat off, something that you cannot use, something that you cannot drink from, place plates or glasses upon, prepare food in, dry people or pets with, or sleep under. Arriving in the relevant department, you discover a long queue led by a truculent Esperantist with a speech impediment. After he is

finally sent away, disaffected, you at last see the merchandise the couple claim to want. You now suffer a protracted bout of incredulity tinged with gloom. Could any well-adjusted couple want to spend a lifetime with that china, those glasses? Could they contemplate an eternity of bliss between those sheets? Clearly one party has prevailed over the other in the selection committee. One party fighting for custody of the fruit-bowls.

Despite these forebodings you order the thing on the list. One hazard in many stores is that the assistant who serves you (using the term loosely) turns out to be a friend of the bride. When she discovers that you are a friend of the groom you may observe a momentary flicker of her nostril, and the start of the rumour that the bride is marrying beneath her.

You then have to work quite hard to pay for the thing. You are despatched to some point in the outer darkness and delayed by the jamming of a fully computerized electro-glide lift. Even then you cannot escape. You have to put up with more tomfoolery about selecting a card, gift-wrapping and arranging for the gift to be sent to some unheard-of dot on the map where the wedding is to take place. Finally, on leaving the store, you have to pick your way through an anti-fur coat demonstration.

Not for the world would I inflict such tedium and irritation on my friends. I thought of doing things the Greek way. There, I understand, they give wedding presents by pinning drachma notes to the bride's dress. A bright enough idea, but given the state of present-day Britain it might leave a couple financially vulnerable to light-fingered bridesmaids and vicars. So I have thought of a variation on the Greek scheme.

My friends can take note now that when and if I get engaged my wedding list will be at each of the four major clearing banks. There my friends can select gifts from a wide range of traditional designs in currency and bearer bonds. And they need not worry about a card and gift wrapping. One of those bank giro slips will do.



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NEITHER ICEBERG NOR MIRAGE

The Conservative election campaign of 1987 began three weeks ago without a clear theme but with the impressive busyness and bustle of a reforming government at work. It ends tomorrow amid a massive advertising campaign, designed to sell a strong traditional message that life is too good to risk allowing Labour to wreck it.

Mrs Thatcher's advisers are already looking back nervously at those early days. Even though the Prime Minister looks set to win her third successive victory, the received wisdom that it was Mr Kinnock who "won" the campaign can bring no comfort to the campaigners on the Tory side.

Those last weeks of May are, indeed, already something of a curiosity. Here was a Government so anxious to show that its appetite for power was not dulled that it produced the most radical manifesto in memory. Here was a Government which declared — in public and in private — that complacency was the greatest enemy.

Yet that same Government — having shown itself so active in the affairs of state and so stimulating to the minds of the politically concerned — began its campaign in a way that offered almost nothing to voters' hearts. At that time, wherever top Tories met, the talk was more likely to be about the realignment of the left after another massive Conservative victory, than about how that victory was to be won.

The Alliance was thought to be within a whisker of the Labour vote. How, it was asked in confident Tory circles, might the Conservatives somehow boost the two Davids and hasten Labour's historic decline?

How excellent it would be if the choice in 1991 were to be between, in the words of that great clubland hero, Benjamin Disraeli, "a Tory government or an Enlightened-Spirit-of-the-Age Liberal-Moderate-Reform government". Mrs Thatcher's third set of laurels was secure. Now for her epitaph, the extirpation of socialism.

Today it is abundantly clear that the wish has failed to be father to the deed. Labour was allowed first pluck at the nation's heart strings. For several days leading up to the now famous Kinnock election broadcast, the Labour leader made an unimpeded advance upon the photo-opportunities of Britain.

His passionate rhetoric — of a type which it was once thought had been made redundant by television — brought triumph from the hustings to the living-room. In a modern media-dominated election he took what passes for the high ground of politics. The Tories were left with the job of knocking him off.

They have made a thoroughly good stab at doing so. Mr Kinnock's "red rose" policies on taxation and defence have been stripped down to the traditional mixture of inefficiency and unreality which they truly are. Conservative candidates all over the country have exposed Labour's confiscatory creed for British industry, its determination to bring back the secondary picket, its plans for schools in which it is the parents who must be seen and not heard. Mr Kinnock, however, is still managing to cling to his celluloid image. No one talks now of his humiliation at the voters' hands.

We should beware, however, of drawing the wrong conclusions from these changes in fortune. If the election result tomorrow night reflects the opinion polls, it should not be assumed that the Tory calculations of three weeks ago were necessarily wrong. Labour's decline has not been halted by a single good campaign. A week may be a long time in

politics but it is a short time in history. The decay of socialism goes on. History has not been cheated of her prize.

This campaign will have taught Mrs Thatcher a lesson. Her mistake was — for a short initial period — to relax her guard. Perhaps she had put too much faith in her own rhetoric. Certainly, she behaved as though her popular measures to boost capitalism, ownership and choice had sunk deep into the national psyche when, in truth, they were still near the surface.

This lesson ought not to need to be taught — least of all to the Prime Minister. It is a simple fact that to make Britain earn the money which its people wish to spend is very hard; that to make British wealth creators proud of their creation is very hard; that to turn round a long period of industrial decline and to replace the spoils of industrial revolution and empire with wealth won in a crowded world market-place is the hardest thing of all.

In the past three weeks, however, these difficulties have been dangerously underestimated by Conservatives. It has been remarkable how a few young men have only to make a few hundred thousand pounds in the City and spend it on youthful pleasures for people to start saying that we are witnessing a dangerous exhibition of "bourgeois triumphalism".

A growing number of people have only to choose to buy medical treatment rather than Mediterranean holidays and we are "nagged by doubts as to whether it is right for us to do so". It was all right when private medicine was restricted to the very rich and to the friends of the medical profession. Now that it is more widely available it risks the revenge — somehow suddenly justified — of those who prefer not to use it.

In the words of the final Tory slogan, Britain can indeed be said to be great again. But it hangs on to its greatness by a thin thread. Keeping it anything like as rich and great as its people want it to be will be no easier in the next five years than it was in the last. It will very likely be harder. Only strong, determined government has a chance.

This is not a simple election. The issues have touched the core of the British character and posed searching questions about our national life. For that very reason, however, it is emphatically not an election in which a newspaper can sit on the fence, comforted by pious reflections about how no single party matches its every aspiration.

Of course, the Conservative Party is not offering the electorate a cast of paragon. Not even Mrs Thatcher thinks that. She knows that some of her toughest battles ahead will be against those who will be elected under her own banner tomorrow. Nor is every Labour candidate a left-wing extremist. Many will continue to occupy the soft centre ground upon which Britain has lost so many post-war economic battles.

There remains a great deal to do if Mrs Thatcher wins a third term. The Tory manifesto, with which the campaign began, contains critically important policies for enlarging the rented sector of the property market, for splitting the ownership of decaying municipal estates, for extending the freedom of parents and schools.

It is certainly not an "iceberg manifesto". There is no hidden agenda. The danger would be if it became a "mirage manifesto". The Government must not allow the errors of its electioneering to rock its confidence or a reduced majority to water down its much needed programme of reform.

THE OLD ALLIANCE

Meanwhile what of the Social Democrats and Liberals? Labour's gain has been largely at their expense. The Alliance share of the poll has now fallen from its 25.4 per cent at the 1983 general election to around 20 per cent. The mould has not been broken. Why?

The answer must be largely because the Social Democratic element has failed to bring sufficient weight with it. Although Dr David Owen has been an impressive leader, the founding of this new party has only increased the Alliance vote by about 1 per cent above the 19.3 per cent level which the Liberals alone enjoyed at their post-war popularity peak in February 1974.

Of course, this owes something to Mr Kinnock's carefully cultivated public image. The silence of the hard left is also bound to undermine a Social Democratic Party which came into existence only because the vultures of the left were already seen to be at Labour's carcase. So, as the Alliance vote slips, Mr Roy Hattersley now stretches wide his arms, like the Prodigal Son's indulgent father, and exhorts Social Democratic voters to come home to Labour.

Yet the roots of the Alliance's failure lie deeper. The two allied parties have failed to evolve any convincing conception of why they are in politics together. They do not even share a clear conception of what breaking the mould means.

To Liberals it signifies, above all, proportional representation and the belief that a better political system is one in which the voter who likes and dislikes bits of the Conservative and Labour manifestos would somehow be liberated by being offered a third, compromise, package. The Liberals also have a preoccupation with what is called constitutional reform (with which the Alliance chose to kick off the campaign), an interest in industrial participation, a strong streak of unilateralism, a dash of Green politics and a tendency to support extremist libertarian causes, most recently exemplified by Mr Steel's personal preference, expressed during the campaign, for reducing the homosexual age of consent to 16.

The SDP was, however, expected to bring a more hard-headed approach to Alliance politics. Dr Owen and Mrs Williams embraced proportional representation, which had not interested them when they were Labour

ministers, as the price of their pact with the Liberals. They would use it as a tool for breaking the mould. But this enigmatic phrase never meant quite the same thing to them as it did to the Liberals. To the SDP it meant supplanting the Labour Party and attracting to the SDP a new kind of political activist — one who was willing to accept the basic market economy but who wanted to give it a strong collectivist emphasis on social issues.

This too turned out to be an illusion. Mrs Shirley Williams has never abandoned her obsession with egalitarian social engineering: her dislike of private education or health insurance or anything else which enables the individual to opt out of what the state chooses to provide. Dr Owen himself, who once seemed to speak as though he saw the point of the market as an instrument of freedom, has relapsed into declarations of his own family's use of the state services as though it were an act of virtue. The Alliance manifesto has nothing to say about the social market economy.

The SDP needed to make the Alliance a grouping which inherited the Labour voters but offered them something new. Instead, it offers a return to the old Labour Party, with the old concepts of social policy and demand management. Significantly, the Alliance is the only "party" offering a return to an incomes policy to ward off the inflation their economic policy would bring.

Yet the Alliance is not a party. It is two parties. During the campaign, Dr Owen and Mr Steel have resembled Tweedledum and Tweedledee at their most quarrelsome. Last week, even after Dr Owen had forcibly pulled back Mr Steel from his declaration that he would not serve under Mrs Thatcher, Mr Steel was still saying it. The arrangement of two parties and two leaders acting as one is more like a mystical abstraction than real politics.

The Alliance as it now stands is neither a new credible party of the centre-left nor a replacement for Labour, but a mish-mash of backward-looking attitudes. When Labour's present mask of amiability has slipped again — as it will — the SDP could still have a future as the focal point for a replacement party on the left. But the tensions of its relationship with the Liberals and its unconvincing compromise policies offer no scope for that now.

Points to ponder on election eve

From Sir J. H. Plumb, FBA
Sir, I have just returned from New York and read the letter of Sir Ronald Halstead and other businessmen which you published on June 2 and subsequent days. May I, as a non-businessman, express my wholehearted support of their views.

For many years, as a gloomy exercise, I used to look for British cars on the streets of New York and the best that I could hope for was a rare "initial" or a rarer Rolls-Royce. Now his streets are alive with Jaguars — a tribute to the new professionalism in British industry which goes right down to the shop floor, a professionalism, however, which still has to be extended and encouraged.

This can only be done by continuing the policies upon which Mrs Thatcher's government has embarked — particularly in education where the need to instill professional qualities and to teach technological skills is paramount. It is only through well trained youth and expanding industry that new, real jobs can be created.

Everyone to whom I spoke in America — senators, industrialists, bankers, publishers — from the left of the Democratic party to the right of the Republican spoke with admiration of Mrs Thatcher, not only of the part she is playing in nuclear disarmament but also of the way she has changed the image of Britain from one of collapse and decay to self-reliance and hope.

They believed, and I agree, that a victory for Labour would be disastrous. Mr Kinnock and his colleagues possess neither the intellect, the foresight, the sense of human reality nor the creative imagination needed for leadership. They know they cannot convince so they attempt to bamboozle. Yours truly, JOHN PLUMB, Christ's College, Cambridge. June 6.

From Lord Ezra
Sir, The competitive position of British industry depends crucially upon our ability to exploit fully the new technologies. Yet how can we do this when so many companies face acute shortages of properly qualified and skilled people?

Fewer of our 16-19-year-olds continue in full-time education or training than our major competitors and a smaller proportion of our workforce has any recognised qualifications. Government figures show that a quarter of 18-25-year-olds entering the job training scheme cannot read or write. Standards of numeracy are equally depressing.

The number of apprentices and trainees in manufacturing industry has fallen by over 40 per cent since the last general election. The Youth Training Scheme is inadequate because it is not linked to nationally recognised qualifications.

Management training has also been ignored. Less than a third of those applying to universities for undergraduate business and management degrees were accepted this year — the lowest percentage of any of the ten most popular first degree subjects.

Unless we have a firm national commitment to raise the educational standards of those employed in industry, Britain's competitive position will continue to decline. At this general election I consider that the Alliance offers properly costed policies for education and training which are relevant to these urgent needs. Yours faithfully, DEREK EZRA, House of Lords. June 4.

Alliance costings

From Mr Ian Wrigglesworth
Sir, Mr Russell (June 8) claims that Coopers & Lybrand believe the Alliance have "underestimated" the cost of "several items" of our public spending plans. This is not so.

However, I am not entirely surprised that he should come to this conclusion, as your correspondent's report of the costings (May 13) only quoted the first part of the Coopers & Lybrand Associates paragraph, which said:

We note a number of items in the programme where, in our view, there appears to be a degree of under-estimation in the costings.

I am sure it was accidental that he did not go on to quote the second part of the same paragraph, which said:

Working in the other direction we have also identified some costs which may have been over-estimated.

This was why they were able to conclude that our costings indicate that the Alliance's costings can be accepted, subject to certain assumptions which are made, as broadly reasonable orders of magnitude.

To further reassure Mr Russell, if he is worried about our costings, he might like to know that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking on the BBC Nine O'Clock News on May 28, said:

The Alliance, and I will give them credit for that, have costed their programme properly and I am prepared to take them at their word. Yours faithfully, IAN WRIGGLESWORTH, Alliance Party, Cowley Street, SW1.

Nuclear dangers

From Professor Sir Frederick Warner, FRS, FEng
Sir, Mr Mortimer (June 4) comments on the lack of discussion following Chernobyl of pollution affecting all countries after a nuclear weapon exchange. This unit last year published a two-volume report from 300 scientists in leading laboratories of 30 countries on all environmental effects after the exchange of nuclear arsenals.

The biggest effect would be on climate from the smoke thrown high into the atmosphere if 100 cities were burnt. The lowering of temperature and interference with rainfall at a critical growing period for crops could result in more deaths among non-combatants than in the combatant countries; up to 4,000million compared with up to 1,000million.

The radioactive fall-out from the weapons could cover up to 8 per cent of the land area of the Soviet Union and USA with a dose of 450 rads, the lethal dose

over two days for half those exposed. The calculations are complex because of shielding by buildings and smoke, but show an average dose in the 50-30 N latitude band of around 20 rads for gamma-ray doses. This could be increased perhaps three times if attacks were targeted on unprotected stores of spent nuclear fuel.

Outside this area — roughly Europe, USSR and USA — the radioactivity would spread in reduced amounts. The complete picture should encourage those engaged in discussing the zero-zero option to consider embodying in treaties a ban on city or nuclear facility attacks — a return to the old concept of open cities — and abandoning the counter-value element in war scenarios.

Yours faithfully, FREDERICK WARNER (Chairman, Steering Committee, Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment), Essex University, Colchester, Essex. June 4.

From Professor Antony Flew
Sir, It is curious that so far in this election campaign I have not been tactically seen to have come solely from Opposition supporters, who agree only in such relatively minor matters as their dislike for the Prime Minister or their desire for still heavier spending on the NHS and state education.

But how heavily should any of this weigh compared with the threat to Nato from Labour's "anti-nuclear" policy; the threat both to the economy and to individual liberties from Labour's promise to repeal all "Tory trade union laws"; or Labour's totalitarian drive to destroy all independent schools?

In face of what should be such truly terrifying prospects the sensible course in any constituency which Labour hopes to win is to vote for whichever candidate — Alliance or Conservative — has the better chance of defeating the Labour threat.

Certainly I myself, if I lived in Liverpool or any similar area, should not hesitate — despite my 30 years standing as a member of the Conservative Party — to vote Alliance. I hope that Alliance supporters will vote to keep Labour out in the Conservative-held marginals.

Yours faithfully, ANTONY FLEW, 26 Alexandra Road, Reading, Berkshire.

From Dr Tony Greenfield
Sir, I am a floating voter: just one of several millions. During the last 35 years I have voted for every major party. I have now decided how I shall vote this week: for the Labour candidate. My reasons are:

1. The creation of our welfare state, and particularly the NHS, was the world's greatest humane achievement since the abolition of slavery. Conservative encouragement of private medicine is draining the resources of the public service, dividing the loyalties of medical and surgical staff and grossly enriching some unfairly privileged private patients.

2. Educationally, I do favour a national curriculum to erase the anomalies between the many examination boards and to set high quality standards uniformly applied across the country, so long as we can guard against legally enforced ignorance that might happen if, for example, we had an evangelical or creationist secretary of state. We should have plenty of opportunity of choice, but for those who are being educated when they are able to choose. The return to enforced selection is abhorrent.

3. The wasting away of manufacturing industries, short-term maximisation of profits instead of long-term development, cuts in research expenditure, and motives through greed, all contribute to social division, unemployment, bad behaviour and crime.

4. Finally, nuclear war. The argument that we have been without war in Europe for 40 years because we have nuclear weapons is as silly and illogical as the old joke about the man who threw peanuts out of the carriage window and claimed they kept the elephants away. Nobody who can even contemplate unleashing such destruction against other human beings, even in realisation, must be wholly soaked in evil.

But that is what I believe we face: evil. The present government is the most villainous this country has ever had. Yours truly and in fear for my friends and my children, TONY GREENFIELD, The Heights, Broadway, Whitwell, Hertfordshire.

Working in the other direction we have also identified some costs which may have been over-estimated. This was why they were able to conclude that our costings indicate that the Alliance's costings can be accepted, subject to certain assumptions which are made, as broadly reasonable orders of magnitude.

To further reassure Mr Russell, if he is worried about our costings, he might like to know that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking on the BBC Nine O'Clock News on May 28, said:

The Alliance, and I will give them credit for that, have costed their programme properly and I am prepared to take them at their word. Yours faithfully, IAN WRIGGLESWORTH, Alliance Party, Cowley Street, SW1.

Health policy into the 1990s

From Mr Ray Robinson
Sir, The debate surrounding Mrs Thatcher's comments on private health insurance has predictably unleashed some passionately held views. But, unfortunately, it has done little to clarify the difficult choices that will inevitably surround the question of health service finance in a world where growing demands can confidently be expected to exceed the growth of public sector service provision.

In facing these choices, rational decision making should at least be based upon a clear distinction between matters of value and matters of fact.

On the question of values, Mrs Thatcher clearly believes that people should be free to spend their personal incomes on private health insurance if they so wish. Given an acceptance of the individual's right to buy better housing and other aspects of lifestyle that undoubtedly contribute to a superior health status, she sees no reason why crisis intervention in health care should not be treated similarly.

Her opponents believe that there are certain areas of human activity where differences in personal incomes should not carry with them the right to greater access to the service in question. Equality before the law is obviously based upon the acceptance of this principle. Equal access to health care — as, at least, formally embodied in the NHS — should, according to many people, also be based on this principle.

The central factual question concerning private health insurance is: does it divert resources away from the NHS or does it supplement NHS provision? "Collectivists" and "marketers" express sharply conflicting views on this but where is the evidence?

There is much anecdotal evidence about the detrimental effects of consultants' part-time contracts and nurse shortages, on the one hand; or the beneficial effects of the growth in the

NHS waiting lists

From Mr L. T. Whitfield
Sir, In all the articles, reports and letters on the NHS I have yet to see factual evidence about waiting lists for individual health regions in the national Press.

Waiting lists in the Mersey Health region are at their lowest for 10 years; urgent cases have been reduced in the last six months and patients waiting longer than 12 months have been reduced by nearly 50 per cent in the past four years.

It is time that people throughout the land had an opportunity of seeing the facts, if only to indicate that some health authorities are doing a good job of management and the main drive for improvement must lie with them and not the government of the day.

Yours faithfully, L. T. WHITFIELD, 68 The Cliff, Wallasey, Wirral, Cheshire.

'First things first'

From Dr Gabriel Lindsay
Sir, Ted Hughes's grim election poem, published in today's Times (June 4), expresses vividly the terrifying ecological crisis that confronts humanity through the lips of those who will reap the bitterest harvest from our follies — the children yet to be born.

The North Dartmoor branch of the Green Party, by coincidence, meets in North Tawton, the Poet Laureate's place of residence. It will be a source of inspiration to us, and to Greens everywhere, that Mr Hughes has chosen to place ecological issues at the heart of the election debate.

Yours faithfully, GABRIEL LINDSAY, The Old Mill, Crowden, Northlew, Okehampton, Devon.

From Mr David Scott
Sir, If the Poet Laureate's contribution of June 4, 1987, is an example of the best in contemporary verse, then bring back William Topaz McGonagall. I am, Sir, yours truly, DAVID SCOTT, 24 Muircroft Terrace West, Perth, Tayside.

Looking after baby

From the Right Reverend Cyril Easthaugh
Sir, Before I was consecrated bishop I was the vicar throughout the second great war of a well-known south London parish. It was not a parish accustomed to married clergy. But I was married, and welcomed with my wife. Our first child, a girl, created great excitement for the parish and friends.

My cousins in Los Angeles took the opportunity of sending the baby a present. It was a bib and on its front was embroidered a message which said "Please do not kiss me". This request was rigorously obeyed, coming as it were from the infant's mouth.

I write to suggest that all small babies should possess a like protection against assault, and it would become politicians to take notice of it.

Parents and babies would thereby be saved much anxiety from a noxious and sentimental custom and those of us who watch the political scene on television would be spared the humbug and humiliating spectacle of infants who become victims of unwanted propaganda.

Yours faithfully, CYRIL EASTHAUGH, 9 Blackmoor House, Blackmoor, Liss, Hampshire.

numbers of private hospital beds, on the other. But there is an alarming absence of systematic research. On nurse numbers alone, we know little about the complex relationships between education and training, conditions of service, wage and salary levels and the supply of trained nurses to the NHS.

More speculatively, to what extent does the freedom to opt out of the NHS reduce the political support for its future funding? And do individuals of working age who make use of private health insurance appreciate that their longer term needs will almost certainly be catered for within the NHS? Questions of this type are not easy to answer. But they do provide an agenda for more informed debate on a subject that is bound to remain a key issue for health policy into the 1990s.

Yours sincerely, RAY ROBINSON, King's Fund Institute, 126 Albert Street, NW1. June 7.

ON THIS DAY

JUNE 10 1945
Between VE-Day (May 8) and VJ-Day (August 15) V-Day, as it was called, marked a tribute to all services involved in the struggle

LONG MARCH ON FOOT CRUSADERS' OWN TRIUMPH

PROUD ACCOMPLISHMENT
They have learned great faith and little fear and a high heart in distress.
And how to suffer each sudden year of heaped-up weariness.
They have borne the burden upon their lips and the yoke upon their neck.
Since they went down to the sea in ships to save the world from wreck.

—Kipling ("The Schoolers")
These men and women of the services, so many of whom had their education in the war, 20,000 of them with those from the Dominions, India, Burma and the Colonial Empire, these representatives of a series of kingdoms spread over a quarter of the habitable globe yet knit in one vast Commonwealth and Empire: together with another 1,000 allied troops, they were marching towards their King, Crusaders all, they were the delegates of three millions of soldiers, sailors and airmen who had taken part in the six-year struggle "to save the world from wreck."

And as they marched perhaps the tramp of their feet and the music of the bands echoed in the hearts of those 540,000,000 subjects who form throughout the world a vast and peculiar family of nations. While for some of those unseen hosts — comrades in arms in many battles whose sacrifices of life itself have made this victory parade possible, they having served their day?

In this triumphal march, too, were men of the Home Guard, who had also served by standing by and waiting in city, town, village, and hamlet defying the invader who never dared to invade. There were the civilian services, civil defence services, industrial workers, utility and general services, all taking part in this token representation.

Headed by a Guards band came contingents of the allied forces led by the United States, followed by China in a place originally reserved for the U.S.S.R., and by France and other allied forces in alphabetical order. Poland and Yugoslavia were not present. As the column turned its course from Marble Arch into Oxford Street and away towards the saluting base, the cheering began which was to last for 45 minutes at any given point on a route more than 2½ miles long. No ordinary route march this. Here was a living way thickly lined with warm-hearted, hero-worshipping humanity — wives and children, fathers and mothers, brothers, sweethearts and comrades, too, come to see the culmination of those wearing years of war. Former prisoners of war mingled on the pavements, their whose minds must have flashed back to those days of captivity when at times they had wondered — and who would blame them? — "O Lord, how long?" This was indeed a human column being watched and cheered along its journey by a concourse of humanity. Those taking part in this parade of victory were there on behalf of those who had died and there were so many — who had died that the rest might live and rejoice on this day.

SPIRITUAL TIES

The allied troops were accorded their praise, each in turn, and impartially. Then the Dominion troops — Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, and Newfoundland. How these men were cheered and cheered — for the spiritual ties between Mother Country and Dominions have increased with the years — and those relatives from overseas knew that their reception was an expression of wholehearted admiration. Duty well done, India, too, had brought new colour with her bright turbans into the parade...

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BIRTHS

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk in the light of Thy countenance. Psalm 99:15

ALLEN - On June 8th, in Leicester, to Susan and Douglas, a son, Christopher George.

BEATTIE - On May 20th, to Elizabeth and Philip, a son, Sam Lachlan, a brother to Jack.

BORTHWICK - On June 8th, to Jane (nee Cooke) and Charles, a daughter, Rebecca.

BREWER - On June 7th, to Margaret and John, a son, Nicholas James Timothy.

FAIRHART - On June 8th, to St. Mary's, Paddington, the Maurs and Richard, a daughter.

GILBY - On June 6th, to Patricia and John, a son, James.

JACKSON - On June 8th 1987, at Guy's Hospital, to Marjorie (nee Fane) and Nicholas, a daughter, Olivia.

KEDDIE - On June 2nd 1987, to Fiona and David, a son, James.

LEACH - On June 8th, to Westmorland, to Michael and Charles, a son, Felix Charles.

LEES - On June 8th, at the John Radcliffe, Oxford, to Claire (nee Hill) and Andrew, a daughter, Isabella.

LYON - On June 8th, to Rosemary (nee Lintford) and John, a daughter, Jennifer Sarah.

MAISON - On June 8th, at Guy's Hospital, to Sharon (nee Power) and Robert, a son, Andrew.

MORIS - On June 7th, at Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, to Maria (nee Darnley) and William Thomas, a daughter, Isabella.

MORLAND - On June 8th, at Queen Mary's Hospital, to Marjorie and Andrew, a son, James.

PARSONS - On May 26th, at Royal Berkshire Hospital, to Peter and Susan, a son, James.

PERMAN - On June 8th, at the Portland Hospital, to Amanda (nee Lines) and Jonathan, a son, James.

PITKIN - On June 8th, to Susan (nee Trenchard) and James, a daughter, Emily.

SAUNDERS - On June 8th, at North Devon District Hospital, to Amanda (nee Lines) and Jonathan, a son, James.

SAUNDERS - On June 8th, at North Devon District Hospital, to Amanda (nee Lines) and Jonathan, a son, James.

WILSON - On June 8th, at the Hope Hospital, to Michelle (nee Collins) and John, a daughter, Isabella.

WILLIAMS - On June 10th 1987, before arrival at the Portland Hospital, to Susan (nee Lines) and Jonathan, a son, James.

WOOLGAR - On June 9th, at the Portland Hospital, to Janet (nee Lines) and Jonathan, a son, James.

MARRIAGES

HAPPEY-TAYLOR - On Monday June 1st 1987, at the Registrar's Office, London, to Michael and Susan, a son, James.

FAIRHART - On June 8th, at All Hallowes by the Tower Church, to Marjorie and Andrew, a son, James.

WILSON - On June 8th, at the Hope Hospital, to Michelle (nee Collins) and John, a daughter, Isabella.

DEATHS

ADAMS - On June 8th, after a short illness, to Susan (nee Lines) and Jonathan, a son, James.

APPELBY - On May 20th 1987, at the Registrar's Office, London, to Michael and Susan, a son, James.

BREWER - On June 7th, to Margaret and John, a son, Nicholas James Timothy.

BREWER - On June 7th, to Margaret and John, a son, Nicholas James Timothy.

COOPER - On June 8th, to Susan (nee Lines) and Jonathan, a son, James.

CULVERWELL - On June 8th, at the Registrar's Office, London, to Michael and Susan, a son, James.

DAWSON - On June 8th, at the Registrar's Office, London, to Michael and Susan, a son, James.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

DAVIES - The family of the late George Davies wish to thank Mrs. Davies for the flowers and cards received during the recent loss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL FROM THE CLASSIFIED ADS? If you've ever advertised in the Classifieds of The Times or The Sunday Times, you might have an interesting, unusual or amusing story to tell.

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OVERSEAS TRAVEL Buy or Sell

Lift-off in the city of flight

On the eve of the Paris Air Show, Harvey Elliott, the Times Air Correspondent, previews the great display in the skies that commands international attention

There are few countries more proud, nationalistic and even chauvinistic than the French. They are convinced that their aircraft, space projects, weapons and technology are the best in Europe, if not the world.

They are determined to spread that message wherever and whenever they can. And for 10 days starting tomorrow, they have the perfect showcase, the Paris Air Show.

Although more than 1,200 companies from 31 countries will exhibit their wares at Le Bourget airport on the outskirts of Paris, this will be essentially a French show with the emphasis on French products. And this year, perhaps more than before, the salesmen from Aerospatiale, Dassault-Breguet and the rest, will be making a big effort to whip up interest in their products and clinch deals.

Along with other countries supplying the military market, the French face a fall-off in demand as other nations develop their own armaments industries, and others slash spending to avoid recession.

But unlike many countries the French — backed by the government, which either wholly owns or has a very large stake in the aerospace companies — are stepping up their export efforts rather than batten down the hatches to ride out the storm.

As a result, they are likely to see even more of their production going abroad. In 1986, exports accounted for around 60 per cent of their sales. Although the overall figure is likely to be well down in the current financial year, the proportion of exports is likely to stay about the same. And to remain in that position into the next century the French are expanding their research and development while, for example, Britain is cutting back substantially. This, they hope, will put their missiles, fighters and engines one jump ahead of the customers' potential enemies.

One of the products on display that perhaps epitomizes both the French nationalism and technological development is the Rafale, an experimental fighter, which, for the moment at least, is wholly French.

The full range of missiles — notably the Exocet, whose very name, through the attacks on HMS Sheffield and the USS Stark, has become synonymous with highly efficient death and destruction — will be on display in the static park alongside such "French" aircraft as Airbus helicopters and light aircraft.

For the tens of thousands of the French people who will jam the roads leading to Le Bourget the show is a great day out: a time to collect as many leaflets as possible, buy T-shirts, eat ice cream and stare at everything on display.

Far more than at Farnborough, where business comes first and pleasure is very much second, the Paris Air Show is enjoyed by the family.

But beneath the tricolours and the candy floss there will be much background wheel-dealing, with the British and

Finding a hotel room in Paris has been impossible

the Americans in particular leading the attack.

British Aerospace will display its full range, from the new ATP turbo-prop to the world's quietest airliner, the 146. Its Rapier missiles will point menacingly skywards and British Aerospace will be extremely disappointed if it does not clinch many more orders for the executive Jetstream.

Shorts, the Northern Ireland company that has quietly but effectively grabbed a big share of the missile market with Blowpipe, and almost cleaned up with its Skyvans and Shorts 360 and 330 utility aircraft, will vie with the best.

Rolls-Royce will have an enormous presence, pushing its comprehensive range of engines.

And Westland, hoping the air show will see it take off vertically from its recent political and financial problems, will display two versions of the Lynx and the British-built Black Hawk helicopter.

The Americans can never be ignored at a great international gathering such as this. Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, battling each other as well as Europe for the lion's share of the vast new market in civilian airliners everyone now predicts is just around the corner, will grab any lapel to push home the message that they are refining and developing still further their already impressive array of jets.

On the airfield, the B-1B bomber, the United States' latest and most lethal strike aircraft, will be parked, while the Russians will show their many large and small civilian jetliners and helicopters.

Hardly a developed country will be absent, and getting a hotel room in Paris for those two weeks in June has been impossible for months.

But beneath the individual nations' concerns for their own industries, the most significant development this year is likely to be the new deals and collaborative ventures entered into. No one, not even the French, can any longer afford to go it alone.

The huge cost of developing aircraft, or their engines, is now far too great for any one company, or even any one nation, to carry alone. So there is bound to be an extension of the kind of deals that have linked, for example, the British, West Germans, Italians, Americans and Japanese, who have come together to build a new giant aircraft engine.

Already many of the aircraft tagged "British" or "Dutch" or any other nationality, have just as many foreign parts in them as home-built ones.

And this trend is developing



Michael Davidson

as the big companies discover they are better off pooling their limited resources rather than following one another down the same road.

It is at Paris, where the officials from Sweden, for example, get a rare chance to meet their counterparts from Indonesia or Israel, or where British Aerospace engineers can discover that a particular solution to a problem they have been working on has been discovered by Romania, often talk for the first time.

All the while they are being watched closely by their potential customers, especially the airlines. They too are

beginning to come together with collaborative deals and even mergers.

This has given the airlines a greater collective bargaining power to insist that their wishes, and those of their passengers, are included in the proposals put forward by the plane-makers.

In turn, the manufacturers will be watching whether SAS and Sabena will merge, whether British Airways is likely to show a greater interest in flying twin-engine jets for huge distances over water and so open up new demands for these long-range jets, or whether the develop-

ment of "hub and spoke" route systems are likely to lead to a demand for bigger or, as some believe, smaller aircraft.

All these subtle under-currents, partly fed by politics, partly by economic constraints and partly by changes in customer demand, will come together at Paris.

No one in the business, either as a buyer or a supplier, can afford to be left out. For only by having their sharpest executives on hand to sniff the wind and report back to boardrooms around the world where the trends are likely to lead, can companies make long-term decisions.

Partners who battle it out

The huge success in Britain of the Rolls-Royce privatization has tended to mask the growing hostility in the international civil aero-engine market as the main contenders battle for increasing slices of this lucrative business.

As airlines have stepped up their orders for new generation aircraft, the engine salesmen have had to work harder than usual to try to beat the opposition. For, despite the large amount of collaboration in the engine business — an economic necessity in recent years — the three major producers of Pratt & Whitney, General Electric (both American) and Rolls are furiously competing.

The engine business is not bedevilled by the same level of cyclicality as the airframe makers because while sales of new engines may decrease during an airliner slump, the demand for spares remains, and this is a consistently profitable sector.

According to recent Rolls estimates, world-wide military aircraft engine business to the end of the century should be worth £105 billion and civil engine business an estimated £70 billion.

The major part of the civil market is dominated by the medium- and large-fan engines of Rolls, the RB-211 and its derivatives, GE's CF6 range and its CFM56 medium engine, and the JT and PW engines of Pratt & Whitney.

The Rolls view is that about a third of the £70 billion due to be spent on civil aircraft engines will be on the higher thrust turbo-fan units for aircraft such as the Boeing 747 and the new McDonnell Douglas MD-11 tri-jet as well as the A-310 and A-330 versions of the European Airbus.

On the collaboration front, the trend has been for companies to get together on the development of some engines while directly competing on others.

A casualty of the heightened competition in aero-engines was the collaborative agreement between Rolls and GE. In 1984 they decided it was in their joint interests to give each other a share of their respective engines, the Rolls

RB-211-535E4 and the GE CF6-80C2. The former was chosen widely to power the new Boeing 757 while the latter was more powerful and aimed at the 747 and Airbus A-310 market. A revenue-sharing deal seemed logical.

Last year, however, cracks appeared in the agreement when Rolls began to have success with its big thrust version of the RB-211, the 5240D model which it marketed around the world in direct competition to the 80C2.

GE was not happy when Rolls won the prestige order from British Airways to power the airline's 16 new generation 747-400 jets. The spirit of the collaboration had been broken, claimed GE, and the deal collapsed.

But apart from the vagaries of the collaboration scene and the development of the Rolls share price, high on the list for discussion at Paris — as it was at the Farnborough air show last September — will be the future for the so-called ultra-high by-pass (UHB) engines, which are claimed to reduce fuel consumption by up to 40 per cent.

All the major producers are involved in development of the UHB engine which, basically, derives its name from the principle of by-passing a large volume of air around the hot core of the engine to join the exhaust gas at the rear and provide greater propulsion.

But the big controversy has surrounded the IAE Superfan, which was to have been in service by 1992 but which now appears to have been at least postponed and possibly scrapped. The engine was to have been a contender to power the long-range Airbus A-340 and the Boeing short-range 737. The latter is the most important — a new technology jet due for service in 1992 in the highly concentrated US market — but Boeing has now decided to plump for GE's rival unducted fan engine.

Meanwhile, Rolls has its Contron concept, a large engine to power the Boeing jumbo jet well into the next century.

Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

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Britain goes in with high hopes

The British aerospace industry is taking this Paris salon very seriously, and will have a large presence at the show — facts which indicate the increasingly tough environment in which UK aviation manufacturers now find themselves working to sell their products.

Exports are vital to the UK industry — 60 per cent of all the products of British Aerospace go abroad, for instance — but the industry finds itself up against the giant US aerospace companies with their enormous domestic market, and against some industries in Europe which receive heavy subsidies for technical development and marketing from their governments.

Both the major components of the British aircraft industry, BAe, and Rolls-Royce, are now privatized, and are no longer given financial hand-outs from Whitehall to prop up new projects. The strength of this fresh, cold wind was seen in the combative nature, and the length, of negotiations between BAe and Government over the obtaining of repayable loans to enable BAe to develop the wings for the new A330/A340 airliner project from Airbus Industrie, in which the British company is a 20 per cent partner.

British Aerospace originally sought £750 million, but this was whittled down to £450 million launch aid, leaving the company to find a total of £300 million in the long term from its own resources for tooling and production.

The Government also made the funds conditional on the other partner governments in Airbus — West Germany, with a 37.9 per cent share, France with 37.9 per cent, and Spain with 4.2 per cent — making money available to enable their aerospace companies to participate in the 330/340 project.

Developing a new aircraft from design stage to first flight can take three years or more, while financial break-even point may not be reached until after a further 10 years — and in some cases, not at all. In such a high-stakes industrial game, the UK aerospace manufacturers are hurrying to reduce their costs and raise their productivity through the increasing use of automation.

Rolls-Royce has opened a

robotized factory making fan blades for its series of jet engines. British Aerospace has a new factory at Bristol in which the wings of the A320 airliner, each weighing 7½ tons, are moved down the final fitting-out line by two men using hover pallets, and where parts are brought to the line from the stores by robot vehicles.

Computer-aided design is now commonplace in British aircraft and aero-engine factories, while the UK industry is among world leaders in the development of composite materials as a replacement for the traditional aviation metals.

An RB211-524D4 engine will be on the Rolls-Royce exhibition stand at the salon, as will the company's other new engine, the Tay, which is providing power for the Fokker 100 airliner, and the Gulfstream IV long-range executive jet.

Both these planes will be appearing at Paris for the first time. Rolls will also show a full-scale mock-up of the XG-40 military demonstrator engine, which is proving technology designed to go into the E1200 engine that will power the proposed Eurofighter.

In addition to the EAP demonstrator, British Aerospace will show several other new types for the first time at Paris.

They include the Hawk 200 fighter, a single-seat version of

Space activities will be outlined

the trainer which the Royal Air Force Red Arrows aerobatic team uses, the latest version of the vertical take-off and landing Harrier fighter, the Harrier II GR5, the Advanced Turbo-Prop (ATP) 65-seat airliner, due to be certified for entry into service later this year, and the 146-300 four-jet, 100-seat airliner.

The 146-300 was rolled out on May 1, and made the first flight of its test programme the same day.

BAe's aircraft roll call at Paris also includes two Tornados in the colours of the Italian Air Force, a BAe 146-200, a Jetstream 31 commuter airliner, and a 125 business jet. It is displaying a wide



Pride of Westland's display: the new EH101, being developed with an Italian company

range of missiles, examples of its technology, ranging from the six-bladed propeller developed for the ATP airliner, to titanium components made by new bonding processes.

The company's considerable space activities will be outlined through a series of models of satellites, among them the Space Platform, an autonomous, free-flying vehicle designed to orbit permanently in space.

BAe is the prime contractor for Space Platform, part of the European Columbus space programme. Also on show will be a model of the Hotol (horizontal take-off and landing) space-plane which BAe has designed, and which is considered a candidate to succeed the Concorde when the supersonic airliner finally leaves service.

Pride of the display mounted at the salon by Westland, the helicopter manufacturer based at Yeovil, Somerset, will be the new EH101 30-seat helicopter which it is developing with Agusta, of Italy.

Westland has been through turbulent times recently, with enforced redundancies among its workforce while it waits for EH101 production to get under way, since the con-

trovery over whether it should look towards Europe or the US for partners — which ended with a minority shareholding by United Technologies, of the US, owners of Sikorsky, and the Italian Fiat company.

United Technologies is to place two million man-hours of work with Westland over the next five years, and will

Short Brothers will have a 'first'

utilize the British company's lead in rotor technology in the updating of the Sikorsky Black Hawk helicopter fleet with the United States Army.

Britain has ordered 50 EH101s for the Royal Navy, and 25 for the Army, and orders from the Italian Navy are expected soon. The prototype at Paris will be accompanied by three versions of the smaller Lynx helicopter, the Lynx 3, the Super Lynx, and the WS 80.

The other large aerospace company in Britain, Short Brothers, of Belfast, will have a "first" at the salon in the Tucano two-seat, turbo-prop trainer which it is developing

for the Royal Air Force from a Brazilian design. Shorts will also show its SD 360 36-seat commuter airliner, and a Sherpa transport of the type ordered by the United States Air Force for transporting jet engines around its bases in Europe.

Under an agreement inaugurated at the Farnborough show last autumn, Shorts is involved in a joint study with Boeing/de Havilland of Canada into a new commuter/regional airliner programme, and will outline at the salon the progress made so far. Shorts is indicating that providing current studies of the market are sufficiently encouraging, a decision to launch a joint programme could be taken later this year for entry into service by 1991.

Ironically, the largest British aircraft at Paris, was made by Shorts in the 1960s. This is a Belfast freighter, now owned by HeavyLift Cargo Airlines, and used by that Stansted airport-based company to carry large sections of aircraft and space vehicles about the world in its capacious hold.

Arthur Reed

Europe fights back, America cries foul

From being a series of disparate national industries, often developing projects that competed with one another in world markets, European aerospace has now come together to such an extent that it is threatening the traditional dominance of the aircraft, engine and equipment manufacturers of the United States.

The American reaction is to allege that European aerospace products, particularly those of the French, West German, British and Spanish Airbus Industrie consortium making a family of airliners, are unfairly subsidized in their development and marketing by their governments.

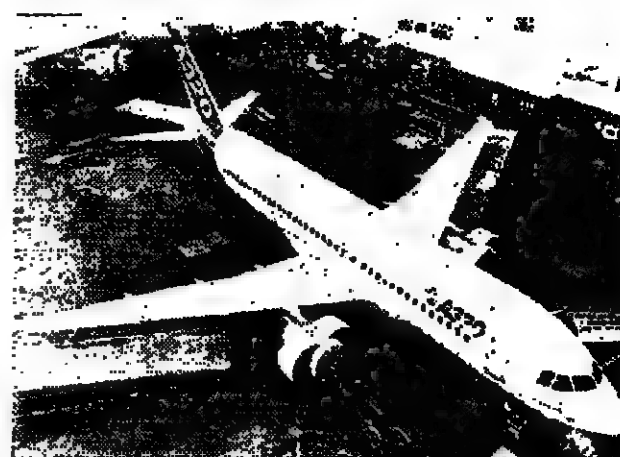
European aerospace responds by arguing that the civil products of the American industry receive hidden subsidies from funding for military programmes.

Both sides will be watching keenly at Paris to see whether Airbus has been able to progress its proposed next big project, the A330 twin-engine, medium-range airliner/A340 four-engine, long-range airliner, to the stage where it can announce a firm go-ahead.

The A330/A340 project, using a wing of a common design for both aircraft, will cost \$3 billion in the long term and the partner aerospace companies have found it difficult to convince their governments of the wisdom of advancing that sort of money.

The project has also been rocked by the failure of the International Aero Engines consortium, of which Rolls-Royce and Pratt & Whitney are the leading partners, to solve the technological problems involved in producing its proposed Superfan engine for the A340 within a deadline issued by Airbus.

Airbus needs a firm decision on a start to the A330/A340 project because its market for the A340 is being chipped away by McDonnell Douglas, of the US, with its



Rolling out Airbus 320, The world's latest airliner

recently launched MD-11 airliner. Airlines have to decide whether to place firm orders now for the MD-11, based on the old DC-10 but with new technology in such areas as cockpit avionics electronics grafted on, or to await the firm launch of the A330/A340, with the new technology built in from the beginning.

While this debate will be going on behind the scenes at the salon, evidence of the solid success of Airbus Industrie in pulling together, during the past 17 years, aerospace industries with different philosophies, languages, even systems of measurement, will be on public show in the shape of the A320 150-seat airliner.

This was rolled out at the Airbus assembly centre in Toulouse, south-west France, in February and made its first flight later that month.

At roll-out, the A320 had taken more than 400 orders, claimed as a record for any

Breaking the grip of US companies

airliner before it had taken to the air.

The A320 is full of advanced technology, with the pilots controlling the aircraft by way of small sidesticks, instead of the traditional control column. The sidesticks are connected to on-board computers that send signals to the motors, which move ailerons, flaps and rudder over electric wires — the "fly-by-wire" system. Mechanical linkages of wires, rods, and pulleys, are dispensed with.

The computers at the heart of the A320 will automatically fly the aircraft out of a dangerous situation, such as a stall, Airbus claims, thus making flying safer.

A few other airliner projects are under way. France and Italy are combining to produce the ATR42 and ATR72 twin turbo-prop regional airliners, while SAAB, of Sweden, is having increasing sales success with its 340 commuter airliner, another twin turbo-prop.

Dornier, the West German aerospace company, is building on the experience it gained with its small 228 twin turbo-prop commuter to develop a pressurized 30-seater, the 328.

European aerospace companies operating in the military sector, like their civil counterparts, seem bent on breaking the grip that US companies have long had on markets abroad.

The military manufacturers have cut their teeth on the Tornado bomber/fighter, a joint British-West German-Italian project, with more than 800 aircraft required by Nato, and with a recent huge sale to Saudi Arabia.

Moving Tornado off the drawing boards and into operational service has been a long and difficult haul involving cost overruns and delays as the three partner nations learned to work together.

Technology for the Eurofighter is being proved in the British Aerospace Experimental Aircraft Programme (EAP) demonstrator, which will be one of the stars of the Paris show flying display.

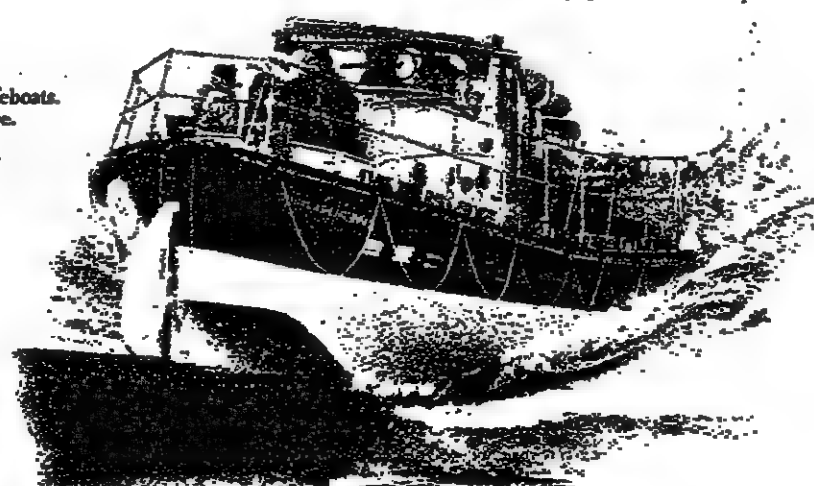
At the same time, the French are proving their own advanced-fighter technology with their Dassault Rafale demonstrator. It will vie for attention with EAP in the sky over Le Bourget every afternoon.

AR



G-Lynx. Captured the world helicopter speed record in 1986. Built by Westland Helicopters.

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You won't see how we're helping the Department of Transport prevent roadworks on future motorways, or the Third World make the most of its agricultural machinery.

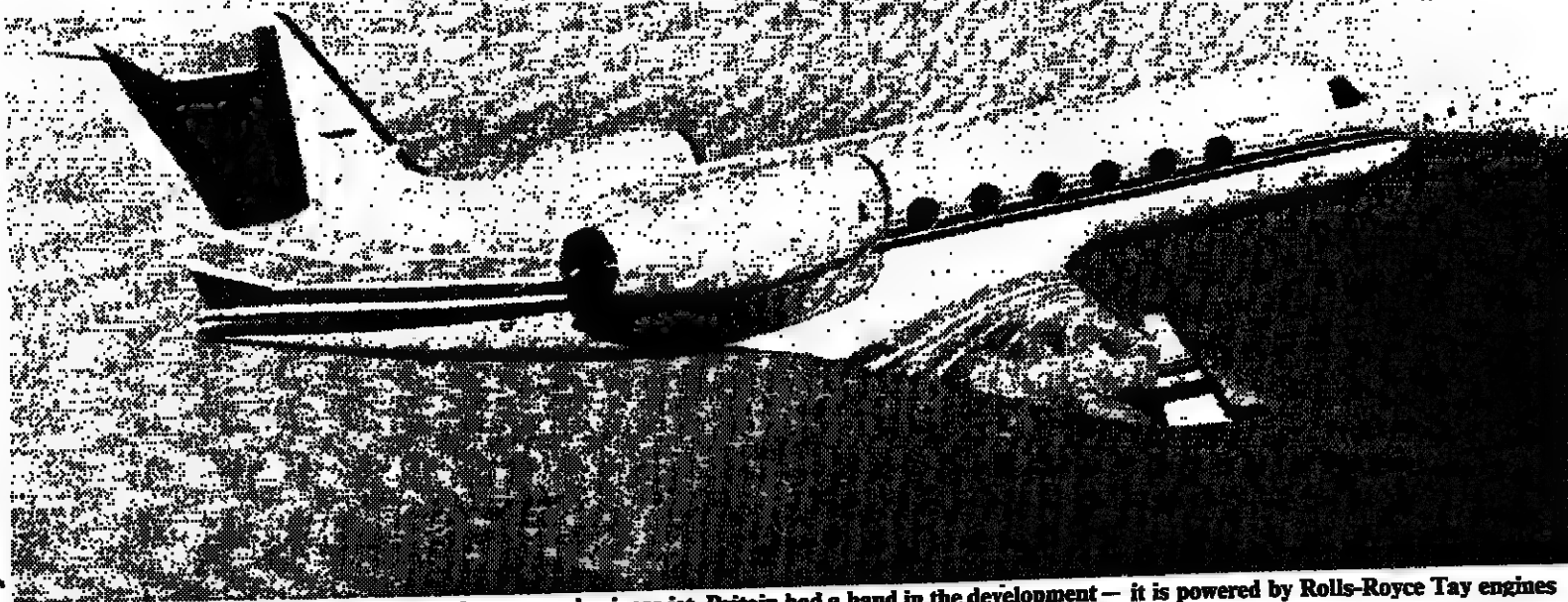
In fact, the show has not been organised which could conceivably demonstrate the breadth of our experience.

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America's absent planes reflect an air of doubt



Sleek and speedy: The Gulfstream IV is a long-range business jet. Britain had a hand in the development — it is powered by Rolls-Royce Tay engines



Because of the rising cost of exhibiting, and doubts about the true worth of air shows as a method of publicizing and selling their products, several of the major American aerospace manufacturers have pulled out of this year's *salon*, and the interest will be more in what is not at Paris, rather than in the US aircraft that are displayed on the flight line.

Among the small number of new types from American factories which will be on show, two are of special interest. These are the Gulfstream IV long-range business jet, which is powered by two of Rolls-Royce's Tay turbo-fans, and the V22 Osprey, a revolutionary design which is half helicopter, half fixed-wing aircraft.

The Osprey, a joint venture between Bell and Boeing, and still in its development phase, employs the principle of "tilt-rotor", in which the twin engines are pointed upwards for take-off and landing, and then swivel through 90 degrees once the aircraft is airborne to give forward propulsion. If trials are successful, the Osprey could

US aerospace industry, the B1-B remains essentially a stop-gap project between the ageing B-52s and the Advanced Technology Bomber (ATB) being developed under conditions of the utmost secrecy towards an in-service date some time in the middle 1990s. The ATB is the so-called Stealth Bomber, designed to a large extent of composites, rather than aviation metals, and covered with non-reflective materials to make it virtually invisible to enemy defensive radars.

The US is known to be flying, also in great secrecy, a stealth fighter, coded the F-19, containing similar design advances. Its task would be to intrude into enemy airspace and shoot down their airborne early-warning aircraft carrying radar designed to detect incoming bombers.

In the meantime, the American aerospace industry continues to modernize, with improved engines, avionics, electronics, and missiles, its existing generation of fighters, the F-14, F-15, F-16, and F-18, and to try to sell them with considerable success, to air

engines. While working on new-generation airliners, both Boeing and McDonnell Douglas continue, like the military manufacturers, to develop their existing aircraft families.

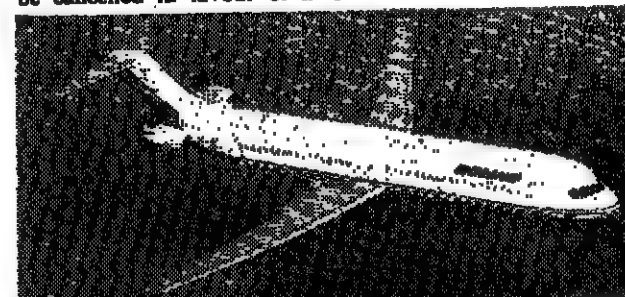
Boeing is assembling, at its Everett plant just outside Seattle, the first of the latest version of its 747 jumbo jet, the series 400, advances built into which will give it a longer range, at 8,000 nautical miles, than any of its predecessors, enabling European airlines to fly routinely non-stop to the Far East, and return.

Boeing has also made a recent decision to develop the smallest member of its airliner family, the 737, still further. The latest version is called the 737-500, and is aimed at short/medium-range routes generating small numbers of passengers. Four airlines have placed initial orders for a total of 73 737-500s, worth \$2.1 billion in total. Roll-out is planned for May 1989, with first deliveries in March 1990.

McDonnell Douglas, which in the military sector is working with British Aerospace to develop an advanced version of the Harrier vertical take-off fighter for the US Marines, and a version of the Hawk trainer for the US Navy, is also capitalizing on its long-term investment in its airliner range. The company is developing new versions of its MD-80 narrow-body airliner, which traces its lineage back to the DC-9, the first of which — like the Boeing 737 — first flew in the middle 1960s.

But McDonnell Douglas's most important recent decision in the airliner sector was to proceed with the development of the MD-11, a long-range, wide-bodied aircraft based on the airframe of the long-serving DC-10. Like the 400 series version of the 747, the MD-11 has little in common with its predecessors, having all the latest technological advances built in, and particularly an all-digital flight deck.

The light or general-aviation sector of US aerospace is going through hard times at present, and the manufacturers are making full use of the showcase that the Paris *salon* offers to parade their wares. The three great names in this sector of the business, Cessna, Beechcraft, and Piper, will between them display more than a dozen aircraft, ranging from two-seater sports aircraft to luxurious business jets.



Shape of the future: a model of the Boeing 737

decision to buy more F-16s off the American shelf.

In Japan, where American aerospace products have dominated in both the military and sectors since the end of the Second World War, there has been a strong recent move to begin an indigenous project to replace three squadrons of ground-support fighters. The worth of the deal would be in the region of \$7 billion.

Although some opinion in Japan is that the home aerospace industry should be allowed to flex its muscles on such a project, there is another strong view that it would be far too expensive, and unnecessary, when the ubiquitous US F-16 is on offer.

In the civil sector of United States aerospace, greatest interest at the Paris *salon* will be concentrated on Boeing's plans to launch a 150-seat airliner, coded the 737, powered by unducted fan

Lockheed is bringing a P3 Orion airborne early warning aircraft. Contram, a company specializing in hanging quiet engines on elderly aircraft so that they can operate from airports where new, tough noise regulations apply, is showing a Boeing 707, suitably "hushed".

The latest in US aerospace technology will be on show in the American industry pavilion. Up to the last minute before the show opened, it was hoped that the Voyager aircraft in which Richard Rutan and Jeana Yeager flew round the world non-stop in December last year would be present. With its advanced, all-composite design, it will provide the perfect foil to the replica of the original Ryan NYP Spirit of St Louis aircraft in which Charles Lindbergh flew non-stop between New York and Paris in 33 hours, 39 minutes on May 20-21, 1927.

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A few clues to the secrets of Soviet techno

The Soviet Union has been a supporter of the Paris *salon* for many shows past, using the occasion as a shop window in the West to show off her space and aerospace technology.

This year is no exception. The Russians are bringing six aircraft, and will feature in their pavilion the story behind their space station Mir, which has been orbiting with two astronauts on board since February.

Like the other space nations at this *salon*, the Russians will place the accent on the peaceful, rather than the military, uses of space. They will be eager to bring over the message that their space shots have continued while both the Americans and the Europeans have been grounded following the failures of the shuttle and Ariane last year. It is unlikely that the Soviets will mention the failure, this April, of one of their Proton boosters during the launch sequence, with the loss of its payload of three navigation satellites.

Hardware inside the Soviet pavilion is of more interest to Western aerospace observers than the Soviet aircraft parked on the flight line, for in the pavilion it is possible to get close to the latest technology and define what progress the Russians are making in design, metals and fabrication techniques. At the 1985 *salon*, for instance, a feature of the

Soviet indoor display was a big-fan jet engine of the type manufactured by General Electric, Rolls-Royce and Pratt and Whitney to drive the Boeing 747 jumbo jet.

Technical experts from the West who scrutinized this powerplant in detail concluded that although it was a significant advance on anything the Russians had produced before, it was still years behind products from the West in pure technology terms.

The Soviet Union's ability to turn out vast numbers of aircraft is well known, but the point the quality that goes into those aircraft has reached is far more difficult to pin down — that is where the *salon* is so valuable to the West.

The brochures describing their entries handed out by the Soviet bureau charged with the task of selling abroad, Aviaexport, is of little help, being generalized and bland, nor will their aircraft at Paris provide many clues. All but one have been seen in the West before, the exception being a small new piston-engine helicopter, the Mil Mi-34, which is of little interest.

Overshadowing all the others will be the giant Antonov An-124 freighter, but this made its first appearance at Paris two years ago, and was



Russian giant: the Yakovlev Yak-42, the Soviet Union's 120-seat intercontinental airliner

also paraded at Farnborough last autumn. Alongside it will stand three airliners, the 120-seat Yakovlev Yak-42, the Antonov An-28 17-seater, and the An-74 eight-seater, and a small competition aircraft.

Of these, the Yak-42 is the most interesting, as it is designed to be a regional airliner and to fly routes that

Worries over airport curbs

take it to airports in the West where new noise regulations are being introduced making it increasingly difficult for airliners powered by older, technically unsophisticated engines to operate.

Although no such restrictions apply on their domestic routes, the Russians are becoming increasingly aware of their international obligations, and claim that the Lotarev D-36 jets on the Yak-42 come within the latest noise rules. They are also worried that the intercontinental-range airliners they

operate between Moscow and New York and Washington may be caught when in a few years' time the Americans tighten still further the already tough noise regulations imposed at their airports.

Although the Ilyushin Il-62 airliner meets today's US noise restrictions, Aeroflot is proposing to introduce by the end of the decade the new Il-96, powered by engines that are both quieter and more fuel-efficient than their predecessors, on its routes to America.

A great deal of new aerospace technology is expected to be introduced into Aeroflot in the near future by a revitalized management led by Alexander Volkov, who recently succeeded the long-serving Boris Bugayev. And as part of Mikhail Gorbachev's more relaxed domestic regime, the 110 million passengers who annually travel with the Soviet airline may in future see more of what Western air passengers take for granted — items such as computerized reservations

and in-flight catering even on short routes.

What there will not be at the Paris show is any real clue as to the Soviet Union's progress in military aviation, or the military uses of space. But Western intelligence indicates that the Mikoyan, Sukhoi and Tupolev design bureaux all have aircraft flying that are certainly approaching the latest aerodynamic thinking in the West, and which are equipped with radar and missile systems sufficiently advanced to make them powerful adversaries.

Speeds twice that of sound, or around 1,400mph, are commonplace in this latest generation of Soviet fighters and bombers, it is known. But whether the engines powering these aircraft have built into them the lengthy time between overhauls that is commonplace in the West, or whether they are still operated on the old Soviet aviation principle of "run until it wears out, and then fit a new one", remains in doubt.

AR

The high fliers from many foreign skies

This Paris *salon* sees displayed a remarkable number of aircraft and aviation equipment items from countries with small but rapidly growing aerospace industries.

Interest will be generated by the appearance, for the first time at an air show in the West, of three aircraft from China — two fighters and a small transport — plus a small remotely piloted vehicle.

All three aircraft are based on original Soviet designs, but the way in which they have been modernized with help from aerospace companies in Europe, the United States and Asia will be scrutinized closely by professional visitors.

China's aerospace industry is growing fast and is more powerful than many in the West realize. As well as buying almost every type of airliner made in Europe and the US, plus the technology that goes with such sales, it is pushing hard its own military aircraft in Third World markets, at giveaway prices by Western standards.

Argentina is bringing a two-seat, turbo-prop training plane, the Pampa. Brazil, whose aerospace industry has shown startling expansion in recent years, will show its Tucano trainer and its 30-seat Brasília commuter airliner. Chile will exhibit a trainer, the Ascar.

Spain is another country with a rapidly blossoming aerospace industry, a trend that

has received a considerable boost since Casa, the national aircraft manufacturer, joined the Airbus Industrie European consortium as a minor partner. Casa is showing its two-seat Aviojet trainer, two versions, military and civil, of its 26-seat passenger or cargo Aviocar, and the CN235 transport, which it is developing with Indonesia.

Finland is due to bring two light training aircraft, and Italy has an impressive list of entrants, among them the AMX fighter, which it is developing with the Brazilian aerospace industry; a Tornado bomber it is manufacturing in partnership with Britain and West Germany; and a group of helicopters. Israel Aircraft Industries will demonstrate the US Phantom fighter it has re-engineered as the Phantom 2000.

Fokker, the Dutch aerospace company, has two new airliners on show at Paris for the first time. They are the Fokker 100, a 100-seat, twin-jet (powered by Rolls-Royce Tay engines) developed from the old F-28 airliners, and the Fokker 50, a 50-seat twin turbo-prop, whose ancestor is the now discontinued F-27 Friendship. Both aircraft are well into their development programmes. The Fokker 50 was awarded its type certificate by the Dutch Civil Aviation Department just before the *salon* opened.

First deliveries of Fokker 50s will begin this summer. Orders stand at 43 aircraft

AR

plus 14 options for seven customers in seven countries.

Poland is exhibiting two small military trainers at the show, and Czechoslovakia has indicated that it will enter four aircraft, the largest a 15-seat commuter airliner.

Two small European countries with thriving aerospace industries are Switzerland and Sweden. Both are bringing the latest products of their production lines.

Switzerland will display a Bravo civil/military trainer, three aircraft from its PC family of trainers and four versions of the Islander, designed originally by the Britten-Norman company in the Isle of Wight and now taken over by Pilatus. Two of the Islanders have been converted to carry radars, for airborne early-warning and maritime-surveillance duties.

SAAB, of Sweden, will fly its 35-seat, twin turbo-prop 340 regional airliner, which is having reasonable sales success in Europe and the US in an overcrowded sector of the airliner market.

Unusually, the Swedes are not bringing any of their family of military aircraft, although they will try to sell their latest interceptor, the Gripen (Griffin), which was rolled out of its assembly hangar for the first time only just before the *salon*, and has yet to make its maiden flight.

AR

Airlines zooming into the billion class this year

With the recovery of their business from the slump following the American bombing of Libya and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster now almost complete, world airlines are again in a spending mood.

Estimates by the International Air Transport Association (Iata) indicate that member airlines will need to acquire at least 4,000 airliners by the mid-1990s, about 1,800 of these to replace existing units, the rest to accommodate increases in traffic. With spares, these orders should be worth up to \$200 billion to the aerospace industries at Le Bourget.

An increasingly large proportion of these new airliners will be leased by the airlines, rather than bought. This trend is running strongly through the aviation industry now,

the main advantage being that the airlines can trade the aircraft back after a short time if they find they need smaller or larger equipment, or if other types more advanced technologically come along.

British Airways is to lease 16 new Boeing 747-400s, costing \$2.3 billion, which it is to bring into service from early-1989.

Encouragingly for the airlines, and for the companies supplying them with their aircraft, engines, electronics and equipment, the public's enthusiasm for air travel shows no sign of waning. The airlines of the 157 contracting states of the International Civil Aviation Organization (Icao) carried a total of 950 million passengers last year, plus 14.7 million tonnes of freight.

Early indications are that passenger traffic could rise by 6 per cent this year, pushing the total number of travellers in any one year through the 1,000 million barrier for the first time. Freight will show a slightly higher rise.

As traffic increases, the pattern of air transport is changing. During the last decade, the combined

Smaller companies have been taken over

shares of international traffic of the old-established airlines of Europe and North America fell from 63.4 per cent to 56.5 per cent, while that of the emergent airlines of Asia and the Pacific rim increased from 19.8 per cent to 28 per cent.

In the US, the fierce economic climate resulting from deregulation has led to many small airlines being taken over, and to the emergence of a small group of giant "mega-carriers". When these airlines buy new airliners, they do so in hundreds, rather than in dozens, and several of them are looking to Europe, as well as to their traditional suppliers in the US, for their equipment.

Pan American, Northwest, Continental and Eastern all fly, or will soon fly, Airbus Industrie aircraft.

Growing up under the wing of these mega-carriers is a new generation of small airlines that feed passengers and cargo into the traffic hubs of their bigger brothers. Their aircraft requirements are proving fertile ground for the

manufacturers of commuter aircraft, and many of these aircraft are being bought from aerospace companies in Europe.

European airlines are under increasing pressure from the EEC to become more competitive. But though some sponsoring governments have introduced an element of liberalization into fares and routes licences, others continue to stand firm.

The European Community is threatening court action against airlines failing to comply with its directives. In the longer term, Brussels wants to see an aviation Common Market starting in 1992, with member airlines free to fly anywhere they wish within the European Community area. Thus, Lufthansa, the West German airline,

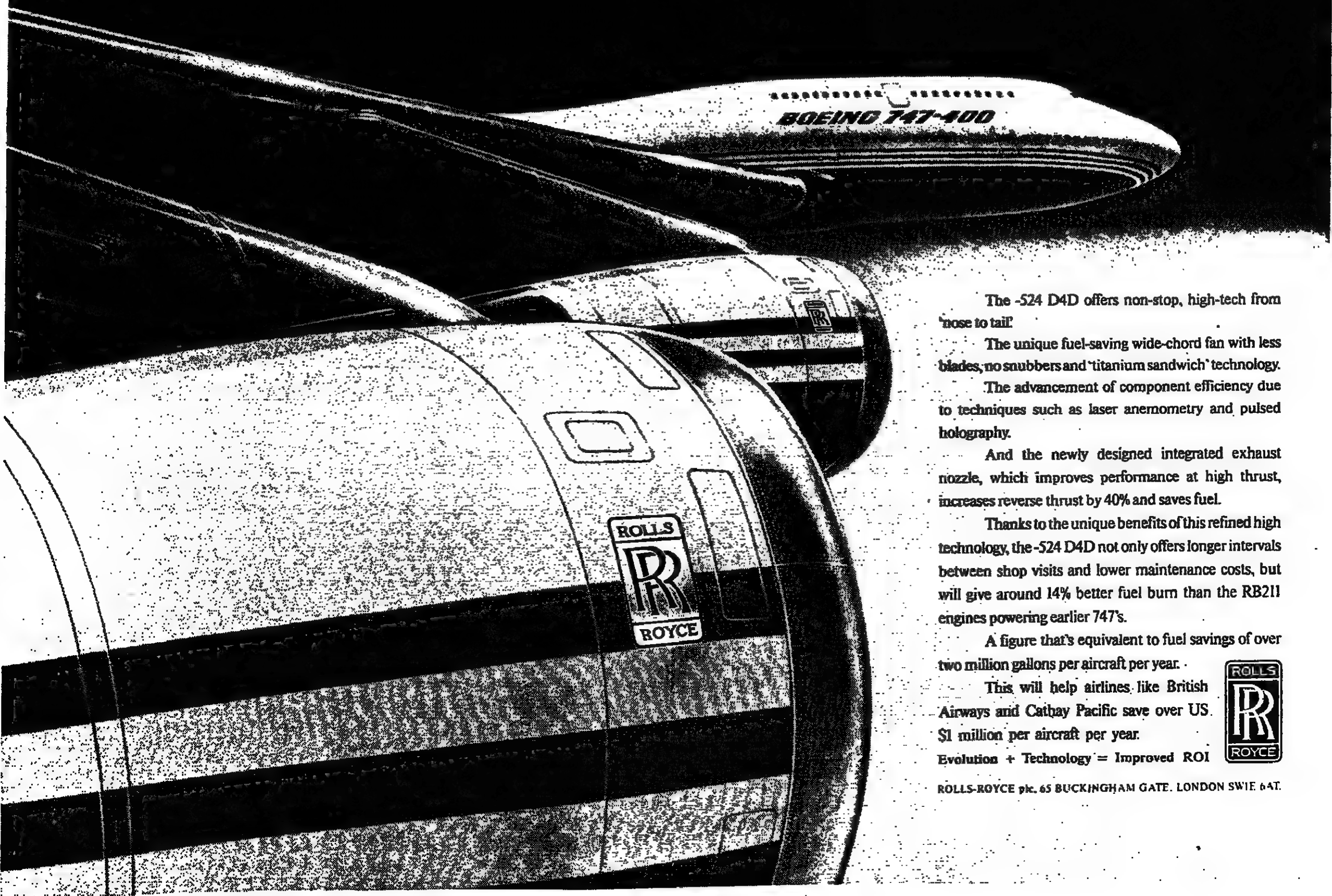
could operate between London and Glasgow, while British Airways could open a Paris-Rome route. Few leaders of the European airline industry believe that such radical changes can be introduced within the timescale set by the Community.

Others believe, however, that the European airlines must act in concert far more than now if what they conceive as a serious threat from the American mega-carriers is to be deflected.

The big US airlines are opening more and more new routes into Europe, using the big profits they make from their US domestic networks to subsidize early losses. But the US is unwilling to allow the European airlines to open similar services in its country.

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THE ARTS

Fishing party

"I hope you haven't been abusing the fabric of the house," said the evangelical Marjorie in *Marjorie and the Preacherman* (BBC1), a comedy by Stephen Bill and Jim Broadbent which paddled its way rather laboriously through the murky shallows of religious fundamentalism. The house, though, was hers, not God's, the abuse a blocked drain. The flow of things was less hindered in the work of her baptismal husband, Sey-

TELEVISION

mour. This fisher of men, or rather mainly young girls, threw back his catches from the river of life so they could be born again.

Alas, his chosen waters of salvation became a river of death when the BBC investigative journalist inadvertently got too much in the swim of things and drowned — despite looking a cross between those renowned men of action, Clark Kent and the editor of the *Daily Telegraph*. Unfortunately, the play also left a sinking feeling — perhaps because real American evangelists are much more theatrical and funny than Paul Seymour, who anyway turned out to be a fake, and even BBC men who stay aloof often are more comical.

Some of the more comical BBC men commune with nature on camera. Those who effuse over flora rather than fauna are the funniest, no doubt because they can roar enthusiasm at plants without fear of being eaten. Compared to some, Chris Baines in *The Wild Side of Town* (BBC1) was almost moderately mesianic in his promotion of trees, though he was rooted in a rich, moist bed of cliché and his description of lonely woodland creatures as "mini-beasts" hilariously coincided with the appearance of a band of budding young arborists knee-high to a boosa.

The Eldon Street Revival (BBC2) was a tale of Liverpoolians who had the fabric of their lives as well as their houses abused. Their brave response is a co-operative housing project on the site of the Tate and Lyle factory whose closure devastated their community. Brought a lump to... "Home, sweet..." but there was no urban Baines to relish the grating perdition of such an unfortunate phrase.

Andrew Hislop

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Brilliant round of discontent

THEATRE

The Three Sisters

In spite of knowing that different interpretations of a great play are countless, it is still a revelation to watch the knock-on effect a few changes have on the other performances.

In the days when the Moscow Arts used to bring their Chekhov productions over here they showed us a Tushenbach so romantically raffine it was a mystery Irina did not pick up her snow-white skirts and run off with him in the middle of Act 1. Elijah Moshinsky's current production, by contrast, gives us Rob Heyland's awkward bear of a fellow, manifestly unlikely ever to be a young girl's prince and, for this reason, a better fit in the play's intricate pattern of emotions.

Heyland is one of six changes of cast since this vibrant production, using Michael Frayn's admirably clear translation, was reviewed by Irving Wardle at its Greenwich premiere. The self-disgust of Geoffrey Chater's Chebnyukin bursts into vengefulness only once, leaving his composure elsewhere almost benign. Irina readily embraces him and the possibility that she is his unacknowledged daughter has never seemed more credible.

By using the revolve Moshinsky smoothly couples the four acts into two pairs, moving from the concave drawing-room set round to the convex rear of it for a linking scene placed in Andrey's study. A baby's cry accompanies the change, neatly marking the erosion of all the fatuous hopes of Hywel Bennett's Andrey before Susan Penhaligon's implacably vulgar, spoon-licking Natasha.

The revolve moves on to catch up with the sitting-room again for the rest of the second act, and revolves again for the convex bedroom and concave



Erosion of all the fatuous hopes: Hywel Bennett as Andrey and Susan Penhaligon as a vulgar Natasha in *The Three Sisters*

garden sets that follow. There is an image here of the carousel of discontent on which all the characters are hopelessly trapped, with precious little likelihood of escape.

The production is tremendously physical. Katharine Schlesinger's Irina is violently whirled off her feet by Ron Cook's Solyony, and the mellifluous, rather dainty Vershinina of Ian Ogilvy approaches Francesca Annis's Masha by such a circuitous route around the furniture that, when his hand finally touches hers, there is an almost electric shock at the contact. The evening is studied with such revelations, and there is not a dud performance on view.

Jeremy Kingston

Starts in the Middle

Offstage Downstairs

To sustain a one-person show you need something more or less than normal performing skill. The most memorable solo performers project outside or peculiar personalities, and mesmerize audiences with their eccentricity (like Rowan Atkinson) or shocking awfulness (like Barry Humphries or Joan Rivers). Sally-Jane Heit seems just a little too normal to be memorable.

Net that she lacks character: this blonde, handsome New Yorker quickly persuades you that she has lived life to the full as daughter, mother, wife, lover, friend, and it is hard to resist her flashing, wide-mouthed smile.

The show gets off to a promising start with a nicely ironic wifely song about kitchen love — a list of artificial ingredients set to the music of a swooningly romantic Chopin waltz (Jonathan Cohen is the discreet accompanist). Ms Heit goes on to impersonate a collection of frightful middle-aged females from the pseudo-liberated, compulsively-eating Marcia with her four former husbands to the infinitely superior, husky-voiced Edith who has an appropriately contorted arm movement to express every twist of her numerous relationships.

With friends like this, as well as a nymphomaniac mother and unfaithful husband, it is not surprising that Ms Heit's main character, Harriet Ferment, goes off the

rails in the more serious second half. It is a bit like the switch from early to later Woody Allen, and the gain in "realism" and confessional intimacy brings a comparable loss of humour and bite. In fact the show ends with a disappointingly banal song which seems to betray the satirical promise of some of the earlier material.

Sally-Jane Heit is at her best in the more pointed songs in the first half, when she attempts a chatty routine between songs, she seems to be talking to an audience of 400 rather than 40. It is a confident, competent evening's work, but one is left feeling that the rather well-worn subject-matter needs a more individual slant.

Harry Eyres

Pugilistic primacy

Joyce Carol Oates has made something of a sensation in America with her book *On Boxing*, published in Britain tomorrow: interview by Melinda Camber Porter

Oates: "A celebration of energy"

aficionados of his sport began in her early childhood, when her father took her to matches. "I come from a world that is somewhat under-privileged, and when I was young and taken to boxing matches I had no critical sense at all. But I saw dramatized in front of me a spectacle that these working-class men were reading as something very symbolic. It was telling them a story about themselves, about their lives. And they didn't get this story from the government or from the church. For many of these young men, the boxing ring is a place of sanctuary."

Oates sees boxing as a haven from the chaos and routine violence of American ghetto life. She says that if one wants to abolish poverty first, "The boxing ring is so much more safe

for them than being out on the streets. There are rules in the ring. They enter the gym and they can't smoke any more and can't drink any more. And their life-expectancy immediately increases. Mike Tyson, for instance, with whom I became acquainted just a little, was saying that many of his friends from his old neighbourhood are dead now. And some are in jail. And he would probably be dead now if he hadn't retrained and been saved by way of boxing."

"So I don't think boxing should be abolished. There are much more dangerous sports. If reformers want to abolish some sports, they should start with something like sports-car racing. But people get very emotional about boxing and they have been emotional towards me on the issue. But I don't see myself as a propagandist."

But the controversy surrounding

Oates's celebration of boxing has obliged her, somewhat unwillingly, to defend herself, and although there is no hint of feminist ideas within her book, and no moralizing on the sport, she arms herself, in conversation, with arguments that belie the tone of her writing.

"Almost no women have written about boxing. There's a whole macho tradition of talking about boxing as if only men can talk about it. That's not the reason why I chose to write about boxing, because I like boxing. But, even if I didn't like it, I would be drawn to it as a sort of quintessential masculine exhibit of masculinity."

"And another reason I am so drawn to it as a feminist, as a subject of feminist enquiry, is that most men, including athletic men and men in good condition, are so excluded from the world of boxing. The kind of high physical development, the ingenuity represented by someone like Sugar Ray Leonard, is unthinkable. It is as if Norman Mailer and I are both equal in front of the boxer, and Mailer knows that. So it's a wonderful feminist sleight of hand where you seem to be writing about something masculine and you're a woman but in fact you're almost the same as all these other men, because they couldn't possibly be boxers either."

Oates feels essentially out of place in the public arena. She is a soft-spoken, guarded writer, who talks in a coy and secretive tone about her work, and is apt to respond with startled surprise when one ventures an interpretation of it that she finds too pertinent. She is quite content with the apologetic role she sees assigned to American writers and does not wish to enter the political fray.

On *On Boxing*, published by Bloomsbury at £9.95, will be reviewed by Jonathan Meades on tomorrow's Books Page.

Fremley Shaw

Quaint tales sombrely told have won Ivor Cutler an ecstatic following among young audiences easily moved to whoops of laughter and eager to raise their hands above their heads so as to be seen to clap.

Every brief poem, song or memory of a Glasgow childhood is applauded by this theatre of 20-year-olds, many of whom arrived late, fidgeted in their seats and went traipsing off to the lavatory like infants at a panto.

Still, it is not my job to review the audience and Ivor Cutler — no fool — doubtless has his own views concerning his success. Wearing loose clothes and a curious head-covering in purple plush, resembling one of Queen Mary's toques without the feathers, he tips out of the wings as if afraid the stage might swallow him up if it suspected he was there.

He picks up his recently published book of stories and reads some. At a creaking Wurlitzer he accompanies himself making straightforward but odd observations about cowboys or a storm or the sun. Odd because so straightforward. Most of the songs he accompanies in the usual manner, adding chords and trills for emphasis, but on one ear-opening occasion he plays, heavily, only the notes he is singing, like a child with unusual views about straying from the truth.

Fremley is the name of a sparrow who started up a conversation with him and whom he saved from certain death and then ate. This gives a fair indication of typical content and style, and, though some of the pieces contain a Zen charm, many others resemble the Japanese dry gardens which you have to be in the mood to admire and which otherwise provoke us to observe that the Mikado has no clothes.

J.K.

CONCERT

Augér/Krause/Gage

St John's/Radio 3

Noises off, from the rampant politicians around Smith Square, occasionally intruded upon the exquisite miniatures of Hugo Wolf's Spanish and Italian Song-Books, but never broke the spell cast in this absorbing BBC lunchtime recital by two fine Lieder singers, Arleen Augér and Tom Krause, and that intelligent pianist Irwin Gage.

If the soprano showed the better form, she also had the best songs. Her light, marvellously flexible timbre does not quite suit her to dispatching her soldier-lover in "Sie blasen zum Abmarsch" with enough pungency. But her witty characterization of the girl observing her slumbering man in "In dem Schatzen" — pert but not coquettish — augured well. Later she seized on the rich farce of "Wie lange schon", that sly dig at amateur musicians (and, of course, amateur lovers), in great style. Gage responded with a wickled satirical stumble through the piano coda.

Augér's real strength, however, lies in her ability to open out the voice, developing a blazing intensity in the more passionate songs, without sacrificing any of her tonal quality or sophisticated articulation. The complex moods and vaulting phrases of the big "Geh' Geliebter" were admirably projected; better still was her childlike gentleness in the lovely "Wir haben beide lange Zeit".

Krause's early efforts were less convincing. The baritone's voice sounded tense and uneven; his enunciation muffled. Luckily, the business of caricaturing the motives of pure maid and impure friar in "Geselle, wolle wir uns in Kutten hüllen" seemed both to relax him and to bolster his assurance. He went on to point the humorous songs far more crisply, and to deliver an outstandingly well-sustained account of the sublime "Benedict der sel'ge Mutter".

One other admirable aspect of this recital: both singers placed great emphasis on visual projection, not only of their own songs, but in their reaction to the other's. The increased audience response was clearly perceptible: a lesson for some stiffer exponents of the vocal arts.

Richard Morrison

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Stand by your man?

In the early hours of Friday morning, when the returning officers clear their throats and adjust their glasses to read out the results of the 1987 general election, spare a thought for the woman standing next to your victorious candidate. Wish her well, especially if her beaming husband is taking his bow for the first time. For his wife's life, as much as his, is about to change utterly; and if a flicker of apprehension crosses her face, who can blame her? Nothing will ever be quite the same again.

MPs' wives don't get a lot of public sympathy (unless, of course, their husbands go astray and get caught; when this happens, the wife is traditionally photographed going to church wearing a sensible hat and a detached and saintly smile). She must guard her tongue, as Pauline Ashley, veteran of 21 years of Westminster wifehood, says: "Never speak for your husband. Don't even intrude your personal views in conversation, because people will assume you speak for him." She must also, as Sally Grylls put it after 17 years' experience, "be prepared to share her life with a great many other people, all of whom," she laughs discreetly, "consider their claims to be paramount in your husband's life."

For the brief span of each election campaign, the wife's work is unusually close to her husband's. My attempts to contact wives of all parties this week caused endless, breathless conversations on the lines of: "She's out with the circus at the moment, should be home about five, then out at six for a meeting, then eight o'clock at the other end of town, hang on... I'll try the car-phone." Once the election is over, wives are still im-

If job descriptions were written for MPs' spouses the words loyal and supportive would be underlined. Libby Purves discovers how Westminster wives keep smiling

portant to constituency groups who want votes to be opened and committee work done; and they are needed at home when their exhausted, frustrated backbencher dashes home between a Friday sitting and a Saturday surgery. But at the end of the day, it is the MP who, Mrs Ashley says, "really matters".

He goes up to Westminster, and his wife sits alone with a poached egg on toast, wondering if she'll hear his disembodied voice on the radio news. Parliamentary wifehood is a classic case of responsibility without power. It is no wonder that the strain sometimes tells; I was told of at least one wife who is only waiting loyally until June 12 before she begins divorce proceedings.

I talked to four wives: two veterans, and two novices from the 1983 intake. Sally Grylls is married to Michael Grylls, who was the Conservative member for Chertsey from 1970-74, and has held North West Surrey for the last 13 years. She was certainly a custom-made Tory politician's wife: "My mother was an

MP, Patricia Ford; my grandfather was member for North Down, my stepfather was Sir Nigel Fisher, who held Sarnborough; and my stepbrother is Mark Fisher, the Labour member. And before I was married my job was working in Conservative Central Office for Edward du Cann. I knew about the drawbacks."

What she knew is that "it's difficult to have a real private life; by definition, you live publicly". She sits as a magistrate, but "my real role is to look after Michael and keep him fit. He's the brains of the family. If I can ease his load, I'm happy to do it."

The Grylls are lucky; with a Surrey constituency, they can live in a division-belted flat in London and lead an almost normal family life. "But I do feel for those wives with distant homes and young children, who are left alone all week while their husbands are in London amid great temptations. My advice to them would be 'Come to London'."

It is not always practical advice. Nursing a constituency means having a home in it; and a second family home in London is financially impossible for many MPs. When Alexander Carrile, QC (Liberal member for Montgomery) discussed his candidature with his wife Frances, she accepted that this would mean living in Wales. "And honestly, the fact that it was such a beautiful place did sway me. If it had been the centre of Birmingham, I might have been less happy." So she uprooted her children (aged 10, seven and two) and told the selection committee that Montgomery would be home. He got the nomination, and the seat. "I was very excited for him, but I also thought what it would mean to the family."

It meant a lot. Alex is in London all week; the chaotic office system at the House of Commons makes it virtually impossible for her to telephone him. "He rings home every day. I never know when." She is left alone to make all the domestic decisions. "For instance, we had a dog that started chasing sheep. In sheep country you have to be tough about that sort of thing. After one disas-

trous day - horrible - I had to decide on the spot to have the dog put down. I wanted to discuss it with someone. It was a family dog - but the children are too young. So I just decided on my own."

She is clearly proud of her husband, but candidly admits that being an MP's wife "causes a terrific amount of stress. You lose touch with your own friends. The important thing I'd say to anyone just starting is, have some interests of your own. [She is a painter, and has an exhibition in a Welsh gallery this week.] Above all, make sure you talk to each other. We have long sessions late at night, when he gets home, just talking about everything. It's so easy to lose touch, or to get resentful, thinking that he leads a very glamorous life, going out to restaurants, meeting journalists, all that."

Sandra Howard, wife of Michael Howard, QC, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, also has a ritual time set aside for talking. "Family breakfast. However early it is.

'My real role is to look after Michael. He's the brains of the family. If I can ease his load, I'm happy to do it'

SALLY GRYLLS (above), wife of Michael Grylls

Another thing to accept, with grace, is that when your husband gets even a minor Government appointment, he has to give up all outside work, even payments for television interviews. "It has been a financial drop. We haven't really felt it yet but we will. And life could change suddenly in any direction; there's no safe career ladder." If he flies higher, there will be the pain of hearing him routinely insulted by opponents or the Press. "I would be very thin-skinned, I'd brood like mad."

All the wives I talked to were ideologically in harmony with their husbands. (It is not always thus. One Tory wife has told her friends she is voting SDP this time.) Pauline Ashley, wife of Jack Ashley, the Labour member for Stoke-on-Trent, South, is the quintessential supportive MP's wife, although 36 years ago, when they married, there were some odds stacked against them.

"I was a middle-class girl. Jack is from a very poor background. It was a struggle at first, and I was a bit shocked by some of the things he thought and did. I wouldn't necessarily have ended up Labour if I hadn't married Jack. I wouldn't have had the contact and understanding."

She thinks that Westminster wifehood would be a pretty dreadful life for any woman who didn't become committed to politics. "If you are, then it's actually fun. There was never any doubt or conflict about my becoming an MP's wife. The things that make him an MP are the reasons that I love him."

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Write way to win

Where are all the female playwrights? To seek them out the Second Wave arts project, a theatre group funded by their local council, are organizing their second playwrighting competition for women under 30 (not against them, simply designed to encourage the young). Plays submitted should not have been professionally produced before, as the winning entry will be staged at the Albany Empire in November; every entry is read by a selection committee of professional women scriptwriters before being passed to the judging panel (which last year included Glenda Jackson); every entrant will receive a critique of her work. Closing date is July 18; for details contact Second Wave at Albany Empire, Douglas Way, London SE8 4AG (01-691 8016).

Egg mothers

In an attempt to halt New York's soaring teenage pregnancy rate (35,000 each year - one in four 14-year-old girls will be pregnant by her 18th birthday), Lenny Roseman, a sex education teacher, and the principal designer of the family living/sex education courses taught in the city's high schools, gets her students to act as "parents" to a raw egg for a week (either opting for single parenthood or teaming up with a classmate of the opposite sex), protecting it from harm, caring for the egg and even having to find a "babysitter". Some parents do not approve: one girl was removed on religious grounds, but a report recently suggested that "The egg baby should be given to all teenagers as a birth control device". Roseman also tells students who find themselves under pressure to have sex to call her. "Tell them, 'Wait, Mrs Roseman says I have to call'."

Travel quiz

To ensure women travelling abroad on business encounter none of the chauvinism, second-class treatment or harassment often, alas, so prevalent, the World Travel Agency intends later this year to set up an exclusive service for women business travellers to make solo globe-trotting as

hassle-free as possible. Most women, they believe, would appreciate more security in hotels - automatic phone-call screening and discreet handling of keys so that the room number is not visible and, in foreign countries, a limousine service from hotel to airport to avoid language problems in local taxis. In order to discover more aids to comfortable travelling, they would like women business travellers to fill in a questionnaire (available from Sally Jackson, World Travel Agency Ltd, 10 Stratton Ground, London SW1P 2HP, 01-222 6443). Questionnaires returned to them so far reveal the United Kingdom to be one of the worst places in which to be a solo female traveller. World Travel launch their service in September, but meanwhile are happy to answer specific enquiries and offer advice to those who make travelling their business.

Quote me...



"The idea of making oneself of one's own free will an exile - of divesting oneself of one's nationhood, of a sense of belonging - for tax reasons or for any such cause, seems to me extraordinary - even repellent. I know for myself that I want to live and grow older (and if necessary poorer) with my own contemporaries and compatriots."

Mary Soames

Shoe-box style

Shoeborn-dwellers who don't manage to catch Channel 4's current Space Craft series on Mondays at 6pm will find ingenious solutions to the problem of living in a cramped space in Rick Ball's book of the same name (published by George Philip at £6.95). Apart from illustrating the illusionary power of lighting and mirrors, Ball takes a close look at petite apartments. In London a three-roomed, bright green, yellow and black bolt-hole reveals "floater kickers" (as used in your local swimming pool) employed as cushions. In New York a library of books has been accommodated in a studio by dint of careful Japanese screening, and in Milan glass bricks bring light and space (and a certain "now you see me now you don't" style) to a tiny bathroom.

Josephine Fairley

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there are the usual traditional drinking rites after the meal. Unlike lesser regiments, however, the Tuskers do not pass round the port after dinner. Instead, two vast and ancient pewter tankards are circulated in opposite directions. Depending on the speed at which they are passed, it is possible to receive both tankards at once, although it is regarded as a breach of etiquette to drain both of them. The tankards always contain Merrydown Vintage Cider, which uses fine English apples like Bramleys and Cox's in its fermentation, rather than the bitter little cider apples used in those brands reserved strictly for the ranks. The elephants are only permitted to drink Merrydown on the Colonel's birthday.



Table talk and dining out is out

I was sitting at somebody's dinner table a while ago and wondering why, I was not in the least hungry, yet was politely stuffing down three courses and swigging red wine which I detest. My fork was tight round the middle, I was too hot, and I was desperately, passionately bored.

Rather than roll sideways off my chair and fall to snoring under the table, I began to question myself as to why this was so.

The food was boring, which is faintly surprising in view of the multitudes of cookery books constantly appearing, and the plethora of advice to be found on the subject in practically every daily, weekly and monthly publication; but what was really causing the head to nod was the conversation, or rather Conversation because my fellow guests were crude to a man (and woman) and that was what they were doing. They were Practising the Art of Conversation.

Witticisms and apocryphs were flying about all over the place and I shouldn't have been surprised if one or two chaps were taking notes of their own more brilliant observations in order to use them again. I converse rather as I play tennis. I can make the odd reasonably intelligent remark, or swipe the odd ball back across the net, and then I think that is quite sufficient and my attention wanders.

I don't like conversation, I like gossip. I don't want to talk about politics or literature or music or the days when Dodo and Boy were undergraduates. I want to talk about what Doris did last night and how she got her own back on the person she did it with. And failing that I want to be cued up in my own sitting room with a book - just as long as it holds the interest, and the telephone off the hook.

When I reeled home from the party I went straight to the bookshelves to see what the authors who write on such matters had to say about dinner parties and conversation and etiquette, remembering somewhere in the back of my mind that there is a school of thought which holds that

Invitations for dinner may be easy to give - but how does the poor guest avoid them?



these concerns are the sign and prop of civilization. As few of our books date from after about 1930, I had to delve into the past but I don't think it matters.

Some things don't change. Well, not much. I don't suppose gentlemen still "remove the right-hand glove before entering the Throne-room, in case the Prince of Wales might be disposed to shake hands with them", but I think it still holds true to say that "An invitation to dinner" conveys a greater mark of esteem or friendship and cordiality, towards the guest invited, than is conveyed by an invitation to any other social gathering."

That comes from *Manners and Tone of Good Society* by a Member of the Aristocracy. This work I found nestling between *A Handbook for Attendants on the Insane* and *Tennyson's Poetical Works*. Our books are not ranged in any particular order.

Manners and Tone goes on to say that "Dinner-giving" is in itself not only a test of the position occupied in society by the "dinner-giver", but it is also a direct road to the obtaining a footing in society - a means of enlarging a

limited acquaintance". I don't think that's particularly true (and it is also jolly badly put). I think a few really crashing dinner parties would be an excellent means of depleting one's acquaintance.

For instance, the person I sat next to the other evening and I, I am sure, will run like hares if we ever clap eyes on each other again.

It is opinions of Voltaire do not interest me. I don't understand the scandals in the City, and as it doesn't affect me in the slightest I don't care. I was moaning to a friend about the horror of hoicking oneself out to dinner on a chilly evening and she said: "Don't they realize what an imposition it is to ask one? The funny thing is they don't. They still think it's a mark of esteem, friendship and cordiality."

The subtitle of *Manners and Tone* is *Solecisms to be Avoided*. "It would be ill-bred to arrive after eight o'clock if a quarter to eight were the hour specified. . . A lady would not enter the drawing-room wearing her cloak. . . A lady and gentleman, on being announced, would not enter the drawing-room arm in arm or side by side; it would be very vulgar to do either, especially the former." That makes one rather long for a couple to bowl in, locked in a Rodin-style embrace.

And that is the dangerous aspect of acute boredom. The condition is so intolerable that one is inclined to commit, not only solecisms, but grievous bodily harm. Anything to ease the tedium.

"It is solely a matter of inclination whether a lady and gentleman, who have gone in to dinner together, converse with each other only, or with their right and left-hand neighbours. . . but well acquainted with the usages of good society, they would doubtless find some topic of conversation in common. . . Not me. Not unless my neighbour was acquainted with Doris. . . and you'll never guess what she did then. . . but that seldom happens."

Alice Thomas Ellis
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Uphill battle for Russians at Chernobyl

Continued from page 1

authorities to convey an atmosphere approaching normality.

"The trouble is that we still know very little about the effects of radiation," a Ukrainian official told me. "That is why the Army men are old enough to have already fathered their children."

Throughout the 18-mile zone, to which only 300 of the 135,000 evacuees have yet been permitted to return, houses are becoming overgrown and many bear the triangular sign warning of excessive radiation.

Among those 10,000 civilians also working in the 18-

began at 2 pm on April 27 last year, are still everywhere to be seen. In the high-rise buildings which line the weed-covered boulevards washing still hangs in lines on balconies, in strangely moving silent witness to the forced exodus.

Although one third of the flats have been decontaminated, there is little chance that the town will ever be habitable again. Turning a corner towards the centre, our bus suddenly came across a surrealistic dump of more than 2,000 cars and motorcycles abandoned.

Amid the countless stories of heroism which surround the disaster and its aftermath, special contempt is reserved, by those now back at Chernobyl, for the men who deserted their posts and others (some of whom suffered severe radiation sickness) whose foolish experiments caused the initial explosion.

Mr Kovolenko told *The Times* that on July 5 the plant's former Director, Mr Viktor Brukhanov, the former chief engineer and his deputy, would be brought back into the zone from a Kiev jail to face a controversial trial in which all three will be charged with criminal negligence.

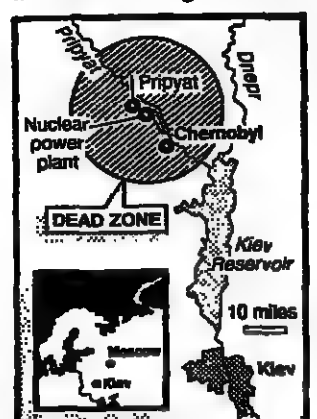
The trial will take place under a judge from the Soviet Supreme Court in that building," said Mr Kovolenko, pointing to the town's former "House of Culture".

Two of the men have already argued unsuccessfully through their lawyers that they have already suffered high doses of radiation and should not have to come back into the zone. They wanted to be tried in Kiev instead.

"There will be room for a few foreign journalists," Mr Kovolenko added pointedly. "But it will be restricted to those whose coverage of events has been objective."

Looking much older than his 33 years, Mr Kovolenko was one of many senior officials inside the danger zone who conspicuously ignored their own printed safety leaflets and chain-smoked virtually non-stop.

"When you have to live as dangerously as they do, I suppose that a few hundred cigarettes either way is going to make little difference," said another reporter, also breaking the rules with obvious relief.



mile zone (6,000 back at the plant) jokes about infertility are common.

About one in 50 have to throw away all their clothes on returning to their special prefabricated settlement, because they are found to be dangerously irradiated.

Despite the blackspots such as that our small group happened on, the authorities insist that, in general, radiation levels are continuing to drop. According to official figures, some 90 per cent of the staff before the accident have now returned to their old jobs in what appear appallingly difficult conditions.

"How many would have done so in the West?" asked one official, justifiably proud of the spirit which abounds. But in addition to the bravery of individuals, there is an air of fatalism, combined with a dash of straight *machismo* ("What sort of dose did you get?" is a frequent question to those who have just returned).

Some five kilometers from the plant is the ghost town of Pripyat, which once housed 50,000 people. The reminders of the mass evacuation, which

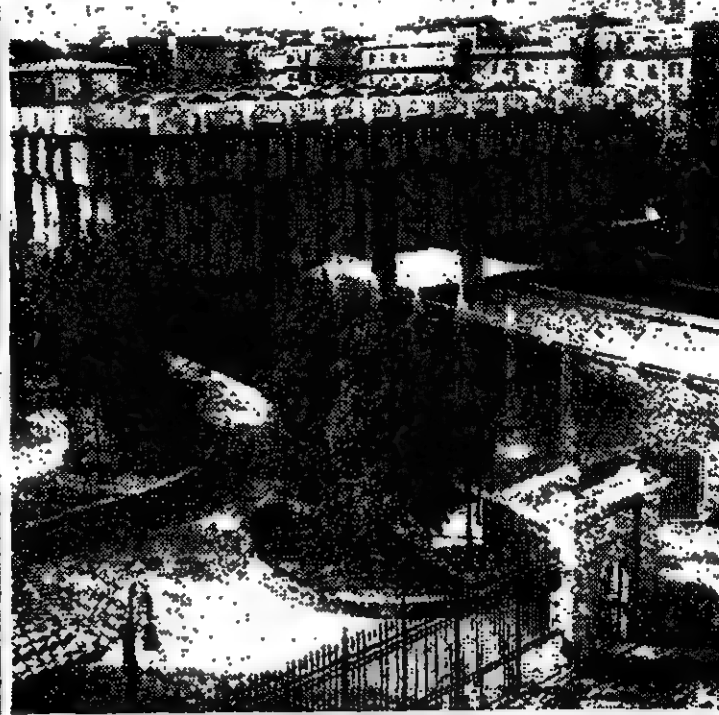
Attack on summit embassies



Wreckage strewn in the road outside the US embassy in Rome after a car bomb attack during the economic summit.



Police examining the rocket launcher



A bomb thrown at the British embassy landed in a pond

Hope in Venice for Prime Minister

Continued from page 1

for eight years, that Britain had had a "tremendous influence" on past summits, and that no country now questioned the British policies of "durable non-inflationary sustained growth."

The "steady" policies pursued since she has been attending the world summits were beginning to bear fruit, she said.

As Mrs Thatcher returned to the campaign trail with her final rally speech at Harrogate last night, Conservative election strategists probably concluded that the summit gamble, as in 1983, had again paid off.

After a long discussion at a working dinner when Mrs Thatcher arrived on Monday

night, the heads of government yesterday approved a statement on East-West relations which committed each country to "maintaining a strong and credible defence" and reaffirmed "the continuing importance of nuclear deterrence in preserving peace."

Whether all the other leaders intended it or not, they have given Mrs Thatcher an important final trump card in the crucial election argument about defence.

Speaking before she boarded her motor launch for the airport Mrs Thatcher said that the deterrent was vital.

"We all believe that. We all believe the nuclear deterrent is going to be vital to our peace for many years to come."

She said that it was "specially pleasing" because it

looked as if the West's firm strategy of deploying cruise and Pershing missiles would be successful in leading to an agreement to reduce nuclear weapons in a balanced and very viable way. "We are on course for getting the first reduction in nuclear weapons we have ever had."

As she emerged from the summit building she also hailed the agreement reached yesterday on terrorism which, for the first time, committed each country to the principle of making no concessions to terrorists or their sponsors.

In her contribution to yesterday's discussion Mrs Thatcher said that previous summits had been important in bringing down inflation, reducing interest rates and producing sustained growth

for five continuous years. But she said that problems remained, including unemployment.

Her remarks about imbalances were aimed particularly at Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, with whom she had a brief discussion before yesterday's full summit session, at which she urged him to do more to open up the Japanese markets.

Mrs Thatcher began her tight schedule yesterday with a 45-minute discussion with President Reagan at his hotel. They discussed the Gulf crisis and agreed that the United Nations should be asked to take effective action to help bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end and to ensure freedom of navigation.

Campaign sketch

Snake-like charm enlivens the left

With his lips pursed and his smile faltering, Mr Norman Tebbit spent most of the morning's press conference looking as if about to kiss a peculiarly hirsute maiden aunt.

His backing group, three unknown ministers all called John and a party-faced Peter Walker, did little to add to the glamour. Only when making reference to the loony left did the meeting come alive.

As the election has rolled on, the loony left has become the mainstay of the Conservative campaign. Until they are mentioned, Mr Tebbit whistles away his time looking knowing and practising his smirk.

Then someone mentions the loony left and the platform comes alive. Tarantula Tarantula Perhaps Mr Bernie Grant should be appointed Minister for the Loony Left in any future Conservative government, with specific responsibility for offsetting remarks about forcing all policemen to become homosexuals.

Those members of the Labour Party who are not Kremlin-sponsored loonies are, of course, hypocrites. Just before the conference began Mr Denis Healey had changed words with Miss Anne Diamond, a television presenter.

This was just what Mr Tebbit needed. "I do wish Mr Healey could have made his point somewhat less aggressively to Anne Diamond this morning," Norman said, with all the grace of a snake criticizing a carthorse for swatting a fly.

At Hammersmith later in the day Mr Tebbit spoke up for the loony left. "They're not loony left at all, and we should remember that. They are now mainstream left. They are the people who have given Neil Kinnock posited cheques for when he's in power."

The loony left are to Tebbit what the multinationals are to Tony Benn: not so much an inconvenience as an explanation for original sin. Like Benn, Tebbit can trace all the world's ills back to one original conspiracy.

In the Tebbit mythology everything can be explained by the loony left.

Was Mr Ken Livingstone in Dallas on the afternoon of November 22, 1963? More than likely. Was Mr Bernie Grant by any chance steering an iceberg when the luxury

liner The Titanic set sail? But of course. And does Miss Linda Bellos take holidays afloat on Loch Ness? Most certainly.

"How's business?" Mr Tebbit asked a Hammer-smith shopkeeper, and then answered himself. "All right except for the rates, eh? We just have to bound the hard left councillors out, don't we? That's right."

Around him, canvassers spread pamphlets stating "10 reasons not to vote Labour" ("4: Extremism: Hard left activists riddle the party at every level. They are well entrenched in local government").

Moving on to the constituency of Westminster North it was found that Mr Tebbit's proposed walkabout site was already occupied by Labour canvassers.

"We've got to change plans because of The Labour," a woman running back to the Tory minibus explained.

"Bad to turn off like this," argued a Tory man. "It might appear that we're frightened."

"Generally we enjoy taking on these political agitators," the woman explained apologetically.

On a fresh stretch of pavement, Mr Tebbit was greeted by a passer-by from Hackney who was upset by, yes, the loony left.

"My constituency, Chingford, is full of emigrants from Hackney," Mr Tebbit announced. "Mind you, we've got a crazy left candidate there too."

The crazy left? He have been told of the hard left, the far left, and the loony left, but we must now accustom ourselves to the crazy left!

Do they trip up senior citizens in the street, chanting Baa Baa Sheep Persons while rolling their eyes? Are they hell-bent on nationalizing the Duchesse of York and making regular riots obligatory for anyone in Brixton and surrounding areas? I think we should be told.

And so off Mr Tebbit went to Hampstead, home of left activist Melvyn Bragg, nurturing plans to force all council house tenants to read his novels or pay crippling fines.

But Mr Tebbit will have none of this. Under a Conservative government, you will be able to pay someone to read them for you privately.

Craig Brown

Bavadra to meet aide

The ousted Prime Minister of Fiji, Dr Timoci Bavadra, yesterday conceded to a meeting with the Queen's Private Secretary, Sir William Heseltine, after previously insisting that he would only be satisfied with an audience with the Queen. Following "very confidential" talks between his advisers and Sir William at Buckingham Palace yesterday, his aides announced that he would meet the Queen's aide this morning.

On Monday Dr Bavadra

insisted that as the democratically elected leader of Fiji he expected to discuss Fiji's political crisis with the Queen.

The Fijian leader, who was overthrown in a military coup last month, came to Britain in an attempt to rally support from the Queen, who is the Fijian head of state. But, acting on the advice of her representative on the islands, the Governor-General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, the Queen refused Dr Bavadra an audience.

Healey's TV-am clash

Continued from page 1

Mr Heseltine told *The Times*: "When the programme went off air, he turned to her, he was obviously livid, and said: 'you shit'."

Mr Healey said in the programme: "The Sun story is full of lies. Every word which appears by my wife to have been said yesterday was actually said two years ago."

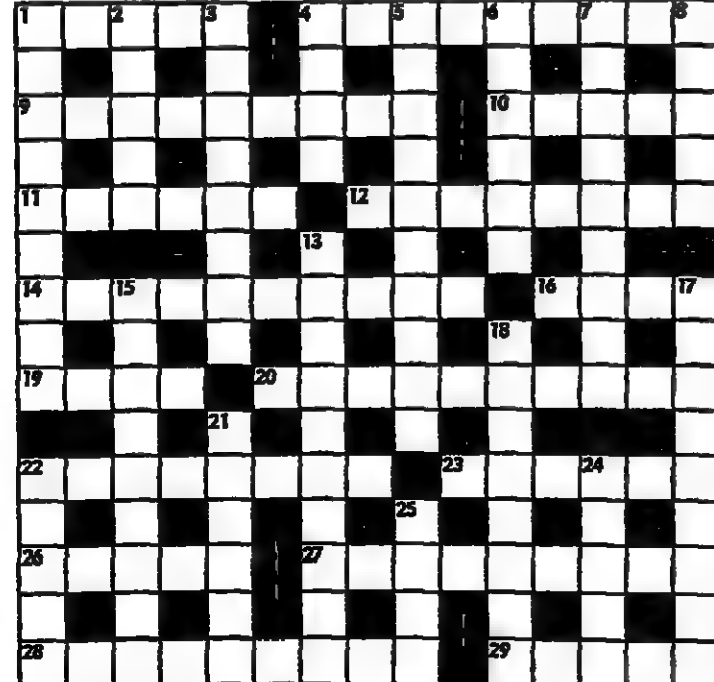
"Because of the damage the Tories have caused to the

health service she would have had to wait three years for the operation, so she exercised her right to use her money."

Mr Neil Kinnock was later asked if he would resort to private health care if one of his children was seriously ill.

He said: "No, I have never been faced with the dilemma fortunately but what I have always said and would say is that if I had a child in agony, and if it was impossible to secure attention for them, I would do anything."

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,379



- ACROSS**
- 1 Author's total bill returned (5).
 - 4 Film's sponsor (9).
 - 9 Tells Macguffin to lead on to fresh fields and pastures new (9).
 - 10 Fool one of 19 (5).
 - 11 Next to bid, East doubled South, oddity (6).
 - 12 Yearly expense for tenant of older generation (8).
 - 14 State in Africa associated with lion, in a way (10).
 - 16 Bound to pass over (4).
 - 19 Needed in broadcast (sound only) (4).
 - 20 One who wants to go after oil - benevolent type (4-b).
 - 22 Map's initial creator, possibly (8).
 - 23 Pain staker runs without (6).
 - 26 Course record, partly (5).
 - 27 Italian range - doesn't begin to equal ours (9).
 - 28 Drew the line after maiden, perhaps, was dominating (9).
 - 29 Offence experimentally linked with trial (5).
- DOWN**
- 1 Ripostes appear to surmount defence (4-5).
 - 2 Old lady who painted national leader (5).
 - 3 Vent opinion regarding picture only? (5-3).
 - 4 A wicket, perhaps, for the spectators (4).
 - 5 Poor dressing can make food liable to be awful (10).
 - 6 Fisherman's article acted as lure (6).
 - 7 Disturbing thing to be told, in fact (4-5).
 - 8 Size of paper that's by no means common (5).
 - 13 Breach of the peace leading to no charges (4-3-3).
 - 15 Small as this country is, unlike USA (5-4).
 - 17 Officer on board holds tea for customer (9).
 - 18 Measure of point-to-point winning margin (8).
 - 21 Boxer, say, employed by fair booth (6).
 - 22 Transport system in some trouble (5).
 - 24 Singer's half of score - or exact copy (5).
 - 25 Paid for a good meal (4).

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 12 per cent of the competitors at the 1987 Birmingham regional final of The Times Collins Dictionary Crossword.

WEATHER

There will be showers in all areas tomorrow. Eastern and southern England will have a cloudy day with heavy, perhaps thundery showers or longer spells of rain. Wales and north western England will have a rather cloudy day with some sunny spells and scattered showers. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have bright or sunny spells, with scattered showers which may be heavy in the east. It will be generally cool with light winds in the south but with moderate or fresh northerly winds along exposed Scottish coasts. Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: It will remain rather cloudy and showery with a period of more prolonged rain in the south east at first.

ABROAD

AROUND BRITAIN

HIGH TIDES

MONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, hail; sh, shower; t, thunder.

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aign sketch
like charm
ns the left

PART 2

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1781.3 (+34.1)

FT-SE 100
2265.2 (+38.8)

Bargains
50389 (50082)

USM (Datastream)
181.75 (+0.96)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6580 (+0.0190)

W German mark
2.9728 (+0.0152)

Trade-weighted
73.3 (+0.6)

Siebe rises
to £62m
before tax

Meaty contributions from its recent purchases in the US helped Siebe, the engineering firm, to almost double its pretax profits last year and to refocus the aim of its business firmly on electronics and controls.

Profits for the year to April jumped from £33.28 million to £62.1 million, although Siebe admitted that they would have been £2 million slimmer had it not changed the way it translated its dollar returns into sterling. Shareholders will receive a final dividend of 10.57p a share, making 15.26p.

Turnover climbed by 82 per cent to £675.12 million and Mr Barrie Stephens, the managing director, is predicting a further rise this year to £1.1 billion - more than half of it from control products. Undaunted by the £10.53 million cost of its unsuccessful attempt last June to buy APV, the process control engineer, Siebe is already contemplating fresh purchases.

Raper resigns

Dr Graham Raper has resigned as deputy chairman and chief executive of Deyv Corporation, the engineering and construction group, because of ill-health.

Apricot attack

Directors of Apricot Computers attacked the swift rejection of its £14.7 million bid for Wordplex Information Systems. Wordplex is today expected to announce more details of its planned capital reconstruction scheme.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

| | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------------|
| New York | Dow Jones | 2264.07 (+2.43)* |
| Tokyo | Nikkei Dow | 25379.88 (+144.01) |
| Hong Kong | Hang Seng | 8108.57 (+40.51) |
| Amsterdam | AEX | 287.3 (+0.3) |
| Sydney | ASX | 1780.7 (+2.8) |
| Frankfurt | Frankfurt | 1748.9 (+8.4) |
| Brussels | Brussels | 4580.7 (+14.0) |
| Paris | CAC | 114.0 (+1.0) |
| Zurich | SIX | 514.60 (+3.1) |
| London | FT 30 | 1781.3 (+34.1) |
| FT 100 | | 2265.2 (+38.8) |

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|--------|
| RISER: | | |
| BHP Industries | 9450 | (+27p) |
| BP | 9020 | (+22p) |
| Costain | 5700 | (+14p) |
| Johnson Matthey | 3490 | (+10p) |
| Dominio Printing | 3580 | (+12p) |
| DSC Holdings | 2610 | (+11p) |
| Edbro | 2670 | (+18p) |
| Lucas | 4100 | (+12p) |
| Calithys | 4380 | (+14p) |
| Allied Lyons | 4790 | (+15p) |
| Guinness | 5230 | (+15p) |
| Associated Book | 5230 | (+15p) |
| N Brown | 5200 | (+15p) |
| Bescom | 5590 | (+15p) |
| Fisons | 3820 | (+10p) |
| Glaxo | 17670 | (+52p) |
| Allied Colloids | 2900 | (+10p) |
| Martina Dev. Group | 1850 | (+55p) |

| | | |
|-----------------|-------|--------|
| FALLS: | | |
| Atkins Brothers | 2730 | (-37p) |
| Siebe | 11480 | (-85p) |

Prices are as at 4pm

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| London Bank Base: | 9% |
| 3-month interbank: | 8.5-9% |
| 3-month sterling bill: | 8.5-9% |
| buying rate | |
| US Prime Rate: | 8.5% |
| Federal Funds: | 5.5-5.75% |
| 3-month Treasury bill: | 5.5-5.75% |
| 30-year bonds: | 10.5-11% |

CURRENCIES

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| London: | New York: |
| £/\$ | \$1.6580 |
| £/DM | 2.9728 |
| £/Sfr | 1.4875 |
| £/FF | 6.5546 |
| £/Yen | 163.36 |
| £/Ind | 101.0 |
| £/ECU | 1.336032 |

GOLD

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| London: | New York: |
| AM \$452.05 pm \$452.85 | |
| close \$453.00-453.50 | |
| (273.75) | |
| New York: | |
| Comex \$454.50-455.00 | |

NORTH SEA OIL

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Brent (July) | \$18.70/bbl (\$18.75) |
| Denmark (last trading price) | |

| | | | |
|--------------|----|--------------|----|
| Bus Summary | 30 | Money Mkts | 32 |
| Stock Market | 30 | Foreign Exch | 32 |
| Temps | 30 | Traded Opts | 32 |
| Wall Street | 30 | Share Prices | 34 |
| Commodities | 31 | Unit Traders | 34 |
| City Diary | 31 | Commodities | 34 |
| Co News | 32 | USM Prices | 34 |

THE TIMES

29
BUSINESS AND FINANCE 29-34
SPORT 52-56
MEDIA & MARKETING 40-41

Finance ministers agree to extend economic cooperation

Venice: 'useful step forward'

From David Smith, Economics Correspondent, Venice

The finance ministers of the seven major industrial countries yesterday agreed to extend the process of economic policy coordination. However, most of the summit countries meeting in Venice held out against a US proposal for the publication of indicators of economic performance and automatic policy action when performance diverged from agreed limits.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, said: "This does, I think, provide a useful framework for the international co-operation which we are all resolved to continue and intensify. I would characterize it as a useful step forward."

He added that the plan went beyond last February's Louvre agreement on exchange rates.

Today's summit communiqué will stress the achievement of the major countries in attaining sustained non-inflationary growth, while pledging action on trade and budgetary imbalances, agricultural surpluses and unemployment.

The summit partners reaffirmed their commitment to stable exchange rates. The US Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker, citing economic policy moves in Japan, Germany and the United States, said that stable exchange rates would be achieved, not by statements from the summit, but by the actions already in train.

Officials said finance ministers preparing the summit statement for approval by government leaders and heads of state had agreed that the Louvre accord had been successful and had helped stabilize currencies.

There was also general agreement that while this currency stabilization was having a positive effect on real trade balances, it would take some time before the currency rate stability was reflected in nominal trade figures.

The ministers had also said that while current economic growth levels could be higher, there was no general expectation of a recession.

Under the system of indicators agreed yesterday, each country will present medium-term forecasts of growth, inflation, current account and trade balances, budgetary policies, monetary conditions and exchange rates for consideration by the other summit partners.

These forecasts will not be published, except as part of the normal forecasting process in each country. Britain, for example, will present its forecast early in the year to the summit partners, but the details will not be made public until Budget Day.

The big steps forward yesterday were that other countries will be able to raise objections if there are inconsistencies in the forecasts presented. In addition, there will be the facility for meetings of ministers and central bankers to be called when economic performance diverges from the indicators, although there will not be any automatic requirement for countries to change policy.

The move forward on indicators, with the aim of fostering exchange rate stability, followed a series of meetings yesterday in which the summit partners were in broad agreement on economic issues.

No new commitments on macro economic policy came from the summit participants and neither Japan nor Germany came under significant pressure, in spite of their large current account surpluses and sluggish growth performance.

Mr Lawson presented a three-point plan for easing the debt burden on sub-Saharan Africa. But the US is unlikely to agree at this meeting to the interest relief element contained in the plan.

"I hope we will get agreement by September," Mr Lawson said. "I think we should set ourselves that deadline."

He also urged the adoption of a parallel \$4 billion plan, put forward by Mr Michel Camdessus, the IMF managing director, to ease that part of sub-Saharan Africa's debt burden, which is owed to the international agencies.

The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, gave details of additional non-project grants worth \$500 million over three years for sub-Saharan Africa. He also elaborated on a Japanese scheme to recycle \$20 billion of funds to developing countries through the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of Japan.



At table: ministers ready for the start of yesterday's session

Japan pressed on C&W

The Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, pressed the issue of Cable & Wireless's participation in the Japanese telecommunications market, in a brief meeting with Japan's Prime Minister yesterday.

But Mr Nakasone said he was still awaiting a progress report on the proposed merger of the two rival telecommunications consortia in Japan, and could offer no concessions at this stage.

Mrs Thatcher appeared to be determined to keep the subject of Japanese trade on the agenda at yesterday morning's full summit meeting on the world economy.

"Our purpose, of course, is to open up the Japanese market," she said, "and we do not think that the steps that they have taken have been enough."

A further meeting is scheduled between the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and his Japanese counterpart, Mr Tadashi Kuranari.

Metal Box looks to expansion

By Colin Campbell

Metal Box is planning a range of new products, and after years of reorganization costs and heavy staff pruning is in an expansion mood, the board reported yesterday.

Dr Brian Smith, chairman, yesterday announced pretax profits of £82.2 million for the year ended March compared with £65.8 million, and raised the final dividend to 4.05p making 5.75p (4.75p) for the year. Group turnover rose from £1.11 billion to £1.14 billion.

Metal Box, with interests ranging from food and beverage packaging to central heating and security printing, has recently made five acquisitions and plans to open new factories in Britain and America.

The group ended the year with an improved balance sheet. Dr Smith said, with net gearing down from 15 per cent to 9 per cent. The return on capital improved from 23.1 per cent to 27.3 per cent, and there was a cash inflow of £18.2 million after spending £52.3 million on capital expenditure and £22.4 million on acquisitions and trade investments.

The shares were unchanged at 268p yesterday.

Times, page 30

Unigate profits above £100m

By Carol Ferguson

Profits at Unigate, the dairy products, poultry and distribution group, have broken through the £100 million level. The pretax result for the year to March 31 was up 26 per cent to £104.7 million on turnover up just 3 per cent to £1.97 billion.

The results were inflated by property profits and after an initial rise, the shares were marked down 3p to 412p. The dividend for the year was increased by 19 per cent to 11.5p net.

Mr John Clement, chairman and chief executive, said that the group is now a leading supplier in the health foods market.

During the last year, Unigate spent £92 million on capital expenditure, £39.6 million of which was for expansion. In addition, it spent £76.5 million on acquisitions, including £26 million for Oldacre, the poultry feed manufacturer, and £45 million (£27 million) for Frifrock, the "home cooking" restaurant chain in Texas.

Mr Clement said: "A pattern of expansion by organic growth and acquisition is now established, enabling Unigate to stay ahead of the competition." Times, page 30

Bank director

Mr Alan Newman, chief manager of the Bell Group, is appointed a director of Standard Chartered Bank.

Rush for Tie Rack makes ballot likely

By Our City Staff

The Tie Rack share offer has been "heavily oversubscribed," Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, said yesterday, and because of the wave of applications, counting was still going on last night.

The bank expects to be in a position sometime today to announce the basis of allocation, though every indication suggests there will have to be a ballot.

"We have been inundated with a wave of applications," the merchant bank said.

Application lists closed at 10.01 am yesterday after intense public interest which forced the merchant bank to print additional application forms.

The group offered for sale 8.6 million shares at 145p each which will net Tie Rack £12.47 million, valuing the whole organization at just under £50 million.

But in view of the public's appetite for new issues following the runaway success of Rolls-Royce, and the more recent Sock Shop issue, and despite being priced at a record prospective price-earnings ratio of 31.5, Tie Rack will have attracted several millions more than it was seeking.

Tie Rack expects to make its stock market debut on Tuesday.

US setback for Maxwell

The attempt by Mr Robert Maxwell to prevent Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, the US publisher, from carrying out a massive reconstruction of its capital as a defence against takeover bids has suffered a setback.

In New York yesterday, Judge John Keenan denied Mr Maxwell's request to prevent Harcourt from naming June 8 as a "record date" for the payment of a special dividend to shareholders as part of the recapitalization.

This recapitalization is an attempt to avoid the \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) bid from Mr Maxwell, who wants to acquire an American book company to expand British Printing & Communication Corporation, his global group.

Shareholders must own shares on the date of record to be eligible to receive dividend payments. Mr Maxwell is fighting to stop a \$3 billion restructuring of Harcourt, which includes a cash dividend of \$40 a share and preferred stock worth about \$10 a share.

Harcourt's recapitalization - one of the largest ever in the United States - forced Mr Maxwell to withdraw his bid, made through BPCC last month.

Although yesterday's decision was a setback for Mr Maxwell, his legal challenge to Harcourt - and Mr William Jovanovich, its chairman - will go on.

Search to cut losses after £42m takeover of Thorn-EMI

Electrolux sends in task forces

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Electrolux, the world's biggest white goods producer which finalized a £42 million deal last weekend to buy Thorn-EMI's troubled domestic electrical appliances operation, yesterday sent in a series of task forces to find ways of cutting losses through consolidation.

Mr Anders Scharp, the Swedish chief executive of Electrolux worldwide, said that one of the Thorn-EMI problems had been overmanaging and that consolidation plans when drawn up by the task forces would "probably" involve job losses. However, expansion is also being looked for, particularly through exports which had been under-explored by Thorn-EMI on the heavy appliances side, he added.

One early decision will be to identify a single local location for microwave cooker production. Electrolux UK has such oven-making at Luton and Peterlee while Thorn-EMI are manufacturing them at Spennymoor in the North-East. The aim is to supply all Europe as well as Britain with microwave ovens from the United Kingdom.

The Electrolux team had their first operational talks with the Thorn-EMI management yesterday and found a white goods division, manufacturing mainly domestic electrical appliances, which had been "trading poorly" and a commercial appliances operation which was a "zoo entity" said Mr Scharp.



Anders Scharp: job losses 'probable'

The white goods operation, with brand names like Tricity, Bendix and in gas appliances Parkinson Cowan, had estimated trading losses last year of about £17 million but according to Mr Scharp this may overstate the actual operational losses because of various write-offs made to tidy up the books at the takeover.

But he went on: "We have to move quickly with these sort of losses one of the reasons for which has been overmanaging." The Thorn-EMI white goods operation, employs about 4,700, with another 1,000 in the commercial appliances operation. The company had reduced the workforce by 500 last year and a further programme to phase out about 300 more jobs has been going through. This may reduce the need for jobs surgery by Electrolux.

When all the task forces have reported, by mid-August, a decision will be made on the extent of new Electrolux investment. Mr Scharp said: "It has been our strategy to invest 4 to 5 per cent of sales in new products and new equipment so in this British operation it could mean £20 million a year or perhaps more."

He expected to turn round the Thorn-EMI interests in two to three years. That was not necessarily to break even point but he looked for a return on net assets - in this case worth about £55 million - of 20 per cent.

The Thorn-EMI deal particularly strengthens the Electrolux white goods portfolio in cookers. The expanded Electrolux UK will have a white goods turnover of about £400 million. Total turnover at Electrolux UK will be about £600 million a year, about a tenth of the world Electrolux trading total.

The enlarged British operation will continue to be headed by Mr Jimmy James, as chairman, with Dr Roger Baxter continuing as managing director.

Electrolux currently has no other takeover targets in mind, said Mr Scharp.

Manufacturers Hanover 'to lift loss reserves'

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Manufacturers Hanover Corporation is prepared to increase its loan loss reserves to \$1.75 billion (£1.04 billion) in a move that would effectively force all large US banks to accept big losses on their Third World loans, industry sources said yesterday.

The decision by Manufacturers Hanover would follow the surprise announcement by BankAmerica that it would reverse a prior decision and lift reserves for future loan losses by \$1.1 billion.

A spokesman for Manufacturers Hanover said yesterday that it "was no secret" the bank had been considering such action since Citicorp stunned the banking world by initiating steps to reduce its foreign loan exposure. The Manufacturers Hanover announcement is not expected until next week.

If Manufacturers Hanover increases its reserves as expected, it would initiate a huge sale of assets to offset losses, industry officials said. This could result in the sales of its London offices and New York headquarters building which would raise as much as \$1 billion, analysts said.

Industry analysts estimated that total losses by the 15 largest US banks which have heavy foreign loan exposure could exceed \$15 billion this year. The decision of four of the top 15 banks to increase reserves has already generated

losses estimated at \$5.5 billion.

Federal regulatory authorities are concerned that as the largest US banks begin to accept losses on their Third World loans, it could trigger a liquidity crisis. Continental Illinois Bank forced the largest bailout in US history in 1984 following a deposit run led by foreign investors which resulted in a \$4 billion rescue programme.

The effects of Citicorp's dramatic decision are surfacing even as the Reagan Administration confirmed it planned to press for widespread deregulation that would encourage the development of "super banks".

Allowing the formation of very large banks by reducing state law prohibitions is considered an essential ingredient to the future survival of large institutions considered marginal because of their heavy loan exposure.

Industry analysts have denied that BankAmerica is a candidate for failure as a result of its decision to take losses which effectively destroy its chances of returning to profitability in the short term. But in the future, if its prospects do not improve significantly, it would be vulnerable to bids from institutions such as Citicorp which have lobbied for changes in the law to allow the growth of institutions with operations on both the east and west coasts.

Cole sells 27.5% stake in Buckley's

By Cliff Feltham

Buckley's Brewery, the small Welsh company, was preparing for another battle yesterday after Mr Tony Cole of Bestwood, who failed to win a seat in the boardroom, sold his 27.5 per cent stake to the financiers who run the revitalized financial services group James Ferguson Holdings.

Mr Guy Cramer, aged 25, who is thought to be one of the youngest company chief executives in Britain, and chairman Mr Peter Clowes have paid 137.5p a share for the stake costing about £5.6 million. On the stock market the shares jumped 4p to 144p on anticipation of a takeover bid.

Mr Colin Thomas, managing director of Buckley's, based at Llaneli, said: "We have no idea why they have bought the stake. It could be that they intend to bid. It seems like a Bestwood situation all over again - the stake is the same only the characters have changed."

James Ferguson, a former textiles group, has been turned into a financial services group

by Mr Cramer. Mr Clowes sold his 27.5 per cent stake to James Ferguson before joining the board as chairman.

Yesterday Mr Christopher Newman, a director of the company, said: "The stake in Buckley's has been acquired by a nominee company acting for them personally. They intend to talk to the Buckley's directors and discuss their ideas. They have not ruled out a full bid, or passing the stake on, they are keeping all their options open."

One obstacle to a full bid could be a 27 per cent stake held by Whitbread Investment Company which has a reputation for supporting the existing board. Whitbread effectively frustrated the attempt by Mr Cole, chairman of the financial services group Bestwood, to obtain a seat on the Buckley's board.

Mr Cole said yesterday: "I think our campaign helped to ginger up the board." He is reckoned to have made a profit of about £200,000 on selling his shares.

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Gas and Telecom shrug off Labour manifesto threat

By Ray Heath

One of the best bets on the outcome of this election would have been shares in British Telecom and British Gas. The greater the lead the polls have given the Conservatives, the faster and higher the shares of both companies have climbed.

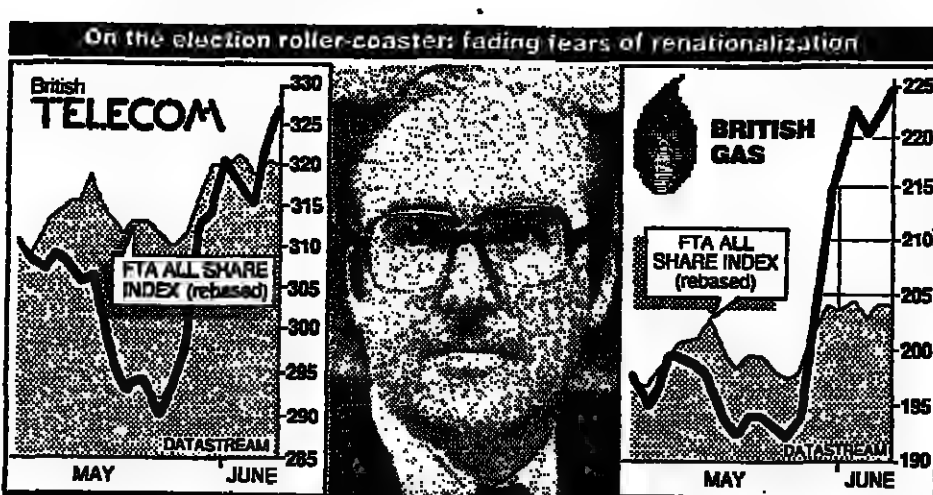
The rises, from 300p to 335p by BT and from 110p to 193p by British Gas, have been so spectacular that neither stock contains one penny of the "what if" factor.

But what if Mr Neil Kinnock was called to Buckingham Palace on Friday?

The general deluge of selling that would swamp the stock market would initially hide the particular impact on the main targets for Labour Government control. When the waves died down, however, analysts would expect to see British Telecom, which is top of the list for nationalization, trading at nearer the 130p at which the shares were floated in 1984, rather than yesterday's 335p.

Similar slumps could be expected in British Airways, British Aerospace, British Gas and Rolls-Royce, the lead engine-makers. The spectre of the Government grab hangs over them all, but like most ghosts, the fear is largely in the imagination.

A spokesman for Mr John Smith, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, said yesterday that only British Telecom and British Gas were targeted for social ownership.



John Smith, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, to target British Telecom and Gas

the soothing euphemism for nationalization. Unspecified "strategic stakes" would be taken in British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce on the grounds that they would require Government sponsored research and development funding.

British Airways and other privatization issues, would, according to Mr Smith's office, escape the net. Labour's reasons for nationalizing BT were set out in *Social Ownership*, published in 1986, which also set out the broad outlines of how control would be regained.

First the Government would wield the state's 49 per cent shareholding in the boardroom. Policies to "protect the interests of consumers and the public," introduce "industrial democracy and user representation at all levels," and "adequately fund" research and develop-

ment would be imposed. Stage two would be the compulsory switch of investors' ordinary shares for two new paper instruments, which would be traded on the stock market. One would be income based, and the other geared for capital appreciation.

There would also be a cash alternative for BT of 130p, the price at which the shares were issued. As Mr Smith's spokesman frankly admitted, "Anyone accepting that would be mad." That element of the package is to placate the hard men of the left, who want to see the party standing behind earlier pledges that speculators who profited from the privatization programme would be severely squeezed.

As the speculators have taken their money, the investors who remain are those with a longer term view. Frightening them would not

British Midland glides to 36% rise

By Harvey Elliott

British Midland Holdings, the airlines group, recorded profits of £4.7 million last year, a 36 per cent increase on the previous 12 months.

The pretax profits were achieved largely from domestic flights, traditionally the most difficult and least productive area of airline operations.

The group, which includes British Midland itself, Manx Airlines, Loganair and the newly-formed Eurocity Express, which will operate from the new London City airport in Docklands, has been operating for nine years as a leading domestic and European carrier, flying in direct competition with British Airways from Heathrow.

It has kept a tight rein on growth so that any developments are within its ability to pay for them. The chairman, Michael Bishop, intends eventually to cash in on any moves within Europe to further liberalize air transport and allow greater competition.

But yesterday he said that he did not believe there would be a sudden breakthrough which would enable his airline to begin flying to other European destinations in the next few years. "Certainly any delay would not be inconvenient to us," he said. Instead he intends to concentrate on developing services from the airline's traditional home of the East Midlands with improved services from Birmingham and Leeds/Bradford.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet Mammon comes to the Church's aid

Ms Thatcher characteristically counter-attacked when faced on Monday with a question from Church of England bishops on the acceptable level of unemployment. Did not the Church have problems of its own in stopping, let alone reversing decline?

The Prime Minister may have been thinking of the more than 1,100 churches made redundant since April 1969. The annual report of the Church Commissioners for 1986 reveals that there has been a net reduction of 767 places of worship over the period 1969-86. Rather in the manner of closed factories, slightly more than half the redundant churches have found new uses, but a quarter have been demolished. The rest have been handed over for preservation by the Redundant Churches Fund: like old textile mills they will be preserved as memorials to a different world.

Last year the Commissioners settled the fate of 62 redundant churches, compared with 50 in 1985. Of these, 36 found new uses - 11 residential conversions among them: 16 are to be mothballed by the RCF, "the highest number for some years"; and 10 were consigned to the demolition men.

In terms of employment, the Church of England continued to decline last year. But numbers receiving stipend from the Commissioners edged down by a negligible dozen out of more than 11,000 - a relatively encouraging sign. Clergy wages remain pitifully low, but are now rising well in real terms. Yet the proportion met by running income from parishioners fell back for the second year to 42 per cent after rising from 39 to 44 per cent during the difficult period of the early Eighties.

The affairs of the Commissioners, guardians of the established Church's capital and providers of improved stipends, present a much brighter picture. Stock Exchange securities, now roughly half the funds invested, have finally topped £1 billion, overhauling the value of the church's traditional property investments, which also crept above £1 billion. The value of securities rose by 19 per cent last year, pretty good given an 18 per cent fixed-interest content.

The value of UK equities rose by 21 per cent to more than £500 million. That is merely a point less than the all-share index, a creditable performance suggesting that the limitations on investment posed by ethical rules need not be as constricting as many people usually suppose. Income rose by an astonishing 17 per cent, helped by money from property sales proceeds temporarily held in short-term funds.

Clearly, were it not for the buoyancy of Thatcher stock markets, the church and its clerical employees would be in a far worse state. They have been major

beneficiaries of the fall in inflation and would presumably be affected by forced repatriation under Labour of the near-30 per cent of securities held overseas.

Indeed, the picture presented by the Church Commissioners' report might serve as a snapshot of the economy; a buoyant financial sector and continuing decline in traditional operations.

Lessons of Venice

First impressions of the agreement on strengthening economic co-ordination, formally reached in Venice yesterday, are less than overwhelming. If the political will had been present on all sides to make a reality of closer co-operation it would not have taken a full year to reach yesterday's modest accord to take an unprejudiced look, from time to time, at a few, selected economic indicators.

Evidently, political agreement on the policy implications of co-ordination was not there. Everyone agrees in principle that there are benefits for all to be had from trying to co-ordinate the fiscal and monetary policies of the leading countries with a view to avoiding the huge trade imbalances and foreign currency fluctuations afflicting the world economy. But there is very little agreement on who should alter their existing policies and how, in order to correct these trends.

The US embraced the idea of setting up a framework of indicators, which, when they diverged from the appointed pattern, would act as a trigger for policy changes. This initiative was launched at last year's summit in Tokyo and strongly supported by the French who, never averse to thinking in theoretical and global terms, saw the chance to shift policy adjustments on to somebody else. The Germans, however, have always seen the indicators initiative as a lever to make them take risks with inflation in order to give a new lick of paint to the American rust belt. The British have also been sceptical, not least because of their recent experience of trying to operate monetary policy on the basis of foggy indicators.

The result is that the Venice agreement may turn out to be little more than a design for a mechanism rather than the mechanism itself. The Group of Seven has agreed to establish targets for a number of indicators and to consult in a pre-arranged way if indicators diverge from the appointed path. The indicators, which apparently may change from year to year, include exchange rates, growth, trade and current balances, inflation and monetary conditions. But there is no automatic, corrective action planned. Foreign exchange markets are unlikely to be very impressed with the proposals, unless they prove in practice to mean more than they seem likely to mean on paper.

Three suspended in Liffe purge

By Colin Narborough

The London International Financial Futures Exchange yesterday announced the first batch of penalties against traders after the most extensive disciplinary investigation of members since the exchange opened nearly five years ago.

Three traders, Mr Steve McGilne, Mr Tony Messure and Mr Gordon Lawrence, were each fined £1,000, and suspended for seven days from yesterday.

This was for violations last year of a rule requiring all trades to be made by open outcry in the pit of the exchange. The rule is aimed at preventing traders from pre-arranging deals.

In another case, Fulton Preben Futures Ltd, the for-

mer Charles Fulton Futures Ltd, has been reprimanded for failing to ensure that its business was conducted in accordance with Liffe rules and for acting in a manner likely to bring the exchange into disrepute, the exchange's disciplinary panel said.

In addition, a number of members have been found to have violated exchange rules in different incidents, but they will not be named until after appeals had been decided.

The group is understood to include the British subsidiary of Cargill, the US commodity group, and Mr Keith Catchpole, a floor trader who was dismissed by Cargill after the investigation was launched in January.

N Brown rises by 51% to £9.2m pretax

N. Brown Group, the quoted, direct-mail clothing company controlled by Mr David Alliance, who runs the Costa Vivaldi group, yesterday reported pretax profits up by 51 per cent to £9.2 million for the year to February 28. Sales were up by 28 per cent to £73.4 million.

A £1.000 investment in the company 10 years ago would now be worth £80,000, said Mr Alliance. The shares rose by 15p yesterday to a new peak of 620p, having come up from 408p this year.

Mr Alliance has about 700,000 "active" customers, each spending about £100 a year and a database of five million names, enabling the company to consider launching more specialist catalogues.

Regalian profits built up to £8.2m

Regalian Properties is making a fortune renewing city centres, and has five redevelopment sites on the banks of the Thames, including two in Wapping, east London.

In the year to end-March Regalian more than doubled its pretax profits from £3.68 million to £8.22 million, on a turnover up from £19.18 million to £27.2 million. With earnings up from 5.35p to 9p the board is lifting the final dividend to 1.375p, making 1.995p for the year against 0.954p last year.

Mr David Goldstone, the managing director, said there were enough new projects to ensure that turnover for the three years after this, would top £500 million, £350 million of which can be seen from a London riverboat.

Thirty four homes went on sale in Wapping's Free Trade Wharf development at Easter, and contracts will be exchanged on 20 this week. They will bring in £6 million.

On average Regalian expects to make a 20 per cent margin on its redevelopment projects. Even the revolutionary Marlborough Park development in Tyne and Wear, believed to be the first provincial development to include a leisure scheme, is thought to have produced more than 17 per cent.

All of Regalian's announced future programme is fully funded, which will be a relief to shareholders who have seen the group raise some £60 million in the past year, through a rights issue and a couple of placings.

Riley 'door still open'

By Our City Staff

Mr Alan Deal, chairman of Riley Leisure, insisted yesterday that the "door was still open" for a higher offer for the snooker club and table group, even though the majority of his board had recommended acceptance of the £16.4 million, 95p-a-share from Midsummer Leisure.

Mr Deal, who on Monday withdrew from discussions about a possible reverse takeover deal with Charlwood Leisure, was responding to an angry outburst from Riley shareholders at the group's annual meeting in London. One claimed that the board's

explanation of why no alternative offers had been sought was "thoroughly unsatisfactory" while another asked whether the board had "lost faith" in its own ability.

Mr Deal said it was his "honest judgement" that no better offer would appear and Hill Samuel had advised that the board had no duty actively to seek a higher offer.

Among those at the meeting was Mr Adam Page, the Midsummer chairman, who with 13 days of his bid to run, claims 20.6 per cent of the Riley shares.

Ennex to raise £14m

By Colin Campbell

Ennex International, the developing resources company with interests in Ireland, Scotland, Australia and North America, plans to raise £14 million via a placing of 25 million new shares at 56p each.

About £5 million will be used to finance an arrangement with Whim Creek Consolidated and Auswin Resources of Australia concerning gold production, development and exploration properties in Western Australia, and the balance for other group activities. The deals include the purchase of a 20 per cent stake in the Tower Hill gold mine and the Labouchere property in Western Australia.

Ordinary shareholders can participate in the fund raising on the basis of 46.62 new ordinary shares for every 100 held. Northgate Exploration and Westfield Minerals, which owns 52 per cent of Ennex's capital, will not be following its rights.

Ennex has identified a 1 million ounce deposit containing about 300,000 ounces of gold at its Carraghmore property in the Sperrin Mountains, Northern Ireland.

Singer out of tune

The laborious negotiations between one of London's last remaining independent firms of stockbrokers, Raphael Zorn, and Swiss-based Singer Investment Group, may, I understand, have run into insurmountable difficulties. News that Singer had bought out Raphael's partners so that the firm could become its first British investment management arm had been expected at least a week ago. But the two sides - with the Raphael team led by senior partner Graham Laing - are, I'm told, still sitting around the negotiating table arguing over the price, with Singer analysing Raphael's accounts with a fine Swiss tooth comb. Raphael's partners had been looking for a price in excess of £10 million but Singer, which has about £30 million of funds under management, is thought to be offering little more than half that. No one at Raphael was available for comment yesterday. "Nor would they if they were," a secretary informed me.

One of the least surprising company announcements yesterday was the decision by United Guarantee Holdings to change its name to United Guarantee Plc. Now it will no longer be known as UGH.

Pinning hopes
One of the big tests of the privatization of the Rolls-Royce aero-engine group is the level of support the sale received from workers. In the event, 43,700 employees and

THE TIMES CITY DIARY Setting market alight

Tales about hundreds and even thousands of people queuing outside Samuel Montagu's Lower Thames Street offices to hand in their application forms for The Rock shares on Monday afternoon were, it seems, incorrect. The hundreds of people seen standing outside the building on the eve of the deadline for applications were in fact the merchant bank's own staff. A smoother-

ing waste paper bin had triggered the fire alarm and the building had to be evacuated. False reports of the queues for shares, however, served only to fuel the stampede for shares. "It turned out to be a wonderful marketing exercise," admits corporate finance director Christopher Clarke. "Perhaps we should arrange a fire drill every time we have a new issue."

people, dedicated to quality and safety, know better. A number of them used safety pins and one employee made extra sure by nailing his cheque to the form.

Streets ahead

Small wonder that Michel David-Weill, senior partner of New York merchant bank Lazard Freres, and his "associates" can afford to buy just under 10 per cent of Pearson, the prestigious Lazard-to-Madame Tussauds empire. In a new survey of top Wall Street pay packets, he comes out streets ahead of anyone else - grossing no less than \$125 million (£75 million) a year. Trailing in second place is George Soros, of money management firm: Soros Management on just \$100 million and in joint third place are Richard Dennis of C&D Commodities and Michael Milken, of Drexel Burnham Lambert fame, both on \$80 million.

Mum's the word

Who says stockbrokers cannot be trusted to keep their mouths shut about price-sensitive inside information? Mark Loveland, employed by royal broker Rowe & Pimman, has just been put to the test and did his profession proud. David Fraser, the ebullient and popular chairman of fast-improving defence group United Scientific Holdings, celebrated his 40th birthday last week and, in order to get a free slot in his busy diary so that they could organize a surprise champagne celebration, his colleagues told him arms dealer Adnan Khushoggi had been in touch and wanted a private one-to-one meeting about a possible contract late on Thursday afternoon. Fraser fell for the yarn and even confided in the company's broker - Loveland. News of such a contract would, if it had been true, have put as much as 40p on the company's share price. But, giving the closest thing there can be to concrete proof of Loveland's discretion, the price of USH's shares ended the day 3p lower.

When whiz-kid John Browne, at 39 BP's most eligible bachelor, was transferred from the company's London HQ Britannic House to Cleveland, Ohio, to clean up Standard Oil, analysts were puzzled to receive change-of-address cards with the legend: "Mr and Mrs John Browne are moving to Cleveland, Ohio". Unattached City ladies can relax. The Mrs Browne referred to is, I'm told, his mother.

Carol Leonard



At 38,000 feet with NEC's new portable computer. International Sales Director **Doug Brown** has the power to prepare in the air.

From 0 to 550mph, his MultiSpeed helps make Doug a real high flier. Taking off?

Contact NEC 01 924 1244

NEC

No.2 in a slightly dramatised series by NEC.

Atkins Bros' profit rise fails to please market

Shares in Atkins Brothers (Hosiery), the textile and electronic equipment group, sank by 32p to 278p yesterday following the news that it had managed only a slim rise in pretax profits from £1.17 million to £1.16 million in the year to March 31.

Turnover was up by less than £1 million to £19.6 million. Shareholders will receive a final dividend of 5.8p, making 8p for the year — an increase of 1p.

But the company says business so far this year is going well, with orders in both the textile and electronic divisions at record levels. Additional investment in more modern plant should also bring benefits this year. The results included a £157,000 extraordinary credit from the sale last November of the loss-making knitwear division.

Mr. Millward Brown: Year to March 31 (compared with the five months to March 31, 1986). Total dividend 3p (1p). With figures in £000.

RECENT ISSUES

| Company | Price | Change |
|------------------------|-------|--------|
| Atkins Bros (180p) | 278 | -32 |
| Barrat (110p) | 109 | +1 |
| Bellway (115p) | 153 | +3 |
| Bentley (100p) | 108 | - |
| Burford (90p) | 288 | -2 |
| Cambridge (50p) | 288 | -2 |
| Chemical (100p) | 288 | -2 |
| Computer People (230p) | 291 | +3 |
| Cooper (A) (130p) | 125 | -2 |
| Gundell (125p) | 105 | +13 |
| Harlow (125p) | 181 | - |
| Marshall (115p) | 223 | -3 |
| March (90p) | 223 | -3 |
| Novo (100p) | 180 | -4 |
| Perpetual (100p) | 180 | -4 |
| Pickwick (60p) | 180 | -4 |
| Practical (60p) | 180 | -4 |
| RSC | 80 | -2 |
| Rolls-Royce (85p) | 217 | +4 |
| Rolls-Royce (210p) | 217 | +4 |
| Selected (115p) | 254 | -1 |
| Sharp & Low (125p) | 180 | -10 |
| Shorrock (90p) | 95 | - |
| UCL (90p) | 180 | -4 |
| Watergate (140p) | 213 | - |
| Wickham | 252 | +2 |
| Wywale (120p) | 256 | - |

BASE LENDING RATES

| Company | Rate |
|------------------------|-------|
| ABN | 9.50% |
| Adam & Company | 9.00% |
| BCCI | 9.00% |
| Consolidated Credit | 9.00% |
| Co-operative Bank | 9.00% |
| C. Hoare & Co | 9.00% |
| Hong Kong & Shanghai | 9.00% |
| Lloyds Bank | 9.00% |
| Nat Westminster | 9.00% |
| Royal Bank of Scotland | 9.00% |
| TSB | 9.00% |
| Ulster Bank | 9.00% |

RIGHTS ISSUES

| Company | Price | Change |
|-------------------|-------|--------|
| Arlington N/P | 44 | +1 |
| Bentley N/P | 44 | +1 |
| Deutsche Bank N/P | 44 | +1 |
| Epicure N/P | 44 | +1 |
| Flora N/P | 44 | +1 |
| Quick H N/P | 44 | +1 |
| Rock N/P | 44 | +1 |
| WCRS N/P | 44 | +1 |

(Issue price in brackets).

APPOINTMENTS

Vaux Group: Mr Frank Nicholson and Mr Anthony Wood become directors.

Lazard Brothers & Co: Mr Nicholas Jones joins as managing director.

Hampton Trust: Mr Terence Robey joins as chairman.

Anthony Bottomley: The House of Hearn: Mr Anthony J Bottomley joins as managing director.

Peak Holdings: Mr Ian McCue becomes an executive director.

Wilkin & Sons: Mr Peter Wilkin becomes chairman.

Town & Country Building Society: Mr Reginald Woolgar becomes chairman.

Beachcroft: Mr Lawrence Markham joins as a partner.

YORK MOUNT GROUP: Total dividend for 1986 maintained at 2p. With figures in £000: Turnover 4,070, pretax profit 976. Earnings per share 4.61p. No comparative figures given.

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ALPHA STOCKS

| Company | Volume '000 | Price | Change |
|-------------|-------------|-------|--------|
| Alcoa-Lyons | 4,720 | 1,800 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 4,720 | 1,800 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 4,720 | 1,800 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 4,720 | 1,800 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 4,720 | 1,800 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 4,720 | 1,800 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 4,720 | 1,800 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 4,720 | 1,800 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 4,720 | 1,800 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 4,720 | 1,800 | - |

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

Alcoa-Lyons: 4,720, 1,800, -

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

| Market | Rate | Change |
|------------|---------------|--------|
| N York | 1.6440-1.6585 | - |
| London | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Frankfurt | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Paris | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Geneva | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Basel | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Brussels | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Amsterdam | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Stockholm | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Copenhagen | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Helsinki | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Tallinn | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Riga | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Vilnius | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Kiev | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Moscow | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Belgrade | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Sofia | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Bucharest | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Warsaw | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Prague | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Bratislava | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Vienna | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Zurich | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |

Starting index compared with 1975 was up at 73.3 (day's range 72.8-73.3).

OTHER STERLING RATES

| Market | Rate | Change |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| Argentina dollar | 2.7440-2.7550 | - |
| Australia dollar | 2.3100-2.3150 | - |
| Belgian franc | 0.0175-0.0175 | - |
| British pound | 0.7700-0.7700 | - |
| Canadian dollar | 0.7700-0.7700 | - |
| French franc | 0.0175-0.0175 | - |
| German mark | 0.0175-0.0175 | - |
| Italian lira | 0.0175-0.0175 | - |
| Japanese yen | 0.0175-0.0175 | - |
| Swiss franc | 0.0175-0.0175 | - |
| US dollar | 0.0175-0.0175 | - |

Notes supplied by Barclays Bank, NYPEX and Ecol.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

| Option | Price | Change |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| First Dealings | 1.6440-1.6585 | - |
| Second Dealings | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Third Dealings | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Fourth Dealings | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Fifth Dealings | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Sixth Dealings | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Seventh Dealings | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Eighth Dealings | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Ninth Dealings | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Tenth Dealings | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

| Option | Price | Change |
|-------------|---------------|--------|
| Alcoa-Lyons | 1.6440-1.6585 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |
| Alcoa-Lyons | 2.2244-2.2274 | - |

Alcoa-Lyons: 1.6440-1.6585, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274.

Alcoa-Lyons: 1.6440-1.6585, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274.

Alcoa-Lyons: 1.6440-1.6585, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274.

Alcoa-Lyons: 1.6440-1.6585, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274.

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Alcoa-Lyons: 1.6440-1.6585, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274.

Alcoa-Lyons: 1.6440-1.6585, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274.

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Alcoa-Lyons: 1.6440-1.6585, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274.

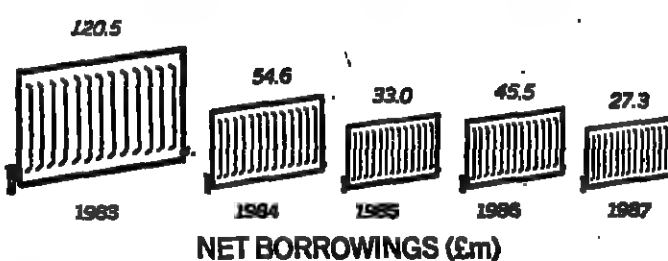
Alcoa-Lyons: 1.6440-1.6585, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274.

Alcoa-Lyons: 1.6440-1.6585, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274, 2.2244-2.2274.

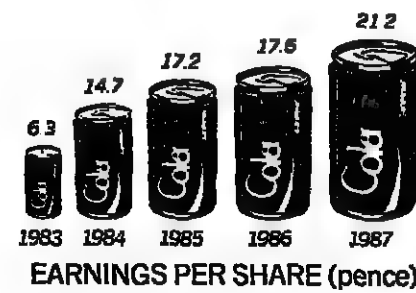
METAL BOX SHAPING THE FUTURE

At Metal Box we have accelerated the development of our business and we're shaping the future.

- Profit before tax up 25%
- Earnings per share up 20%
- Dividend for the year up 21%



During the year we continued our drive into new packaging technologies with a £15 million expansion in facilities to produce the Lamipac high barrier plastic food container and the Lamicon multi-layered squeezable sauce bottle in the UK.



The joint venture with Alcoa, Genesis Packaging Systems, is making good progress in the USA.



We recently acquired five companies which add to existing operations in plastics packaging in the UK, and in security printing and advanced conveyor systems in the USA.

The acquisition of Rudco Industries and Favorite Check Printers will double the size of Clarke Checks Inc., which now ranks among the largest security printers in the USA.

Stelrad's UK and European central heating businesses achieved outstanding results from their modern facilities.

Commitment to investment in research and development remains high with expenditure across the Group of £20 million for the year.

| Year in brief | 1987 | 1986 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| Turnover | 1,137.7 | 1,114.3 |
| Trading profit | 101.5 | 85.4 |
| Rationalisation costs | (5.1) | - |
| Interest (net) | (14.2) | (19.6) |
| Profit before taxation | 82.2 | 65.8 |
| Net borrowings | 27.3 | 45.5 |
| Earnings per 25p share | 21.2p | 17.6p |
| Dividend-net | 5.75p | 4.75p |
| Return on Capital employed | 27.3% | 23.1% |

Abridged figures from the 1987 Annual Report.

To further strengthen our operations we shall continue to acquire businesses which bring us new markets or technical skills or to which we can bring our expertise. Further benefits from this firm foundation will be seen in future results.

For a copy of the Metal Box Annual Report, please fill in the coupon and address it to The Company Secretary.

Metal Box p.l.c. Tel (0734) 581177

Queens House, Forbury Road, Reading RG1 3JH.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

To the Company Secretary

The Report will be available from June 29th 1987.

Opening up the future

DAVIES & NEWMAN HOLDINGS PLC

| Group activities include shipbroking and ships' agency, airline operating and aircraft engineering, production and workover oil drilling. | 1986 | 1985 |
|---|---------|---------|
| Turnover | 306,254 | 287,516 |
| Profit before taxation | 6,694 | 1,050 |
| Profit after taxation | 4,416 | 482 |
| Shareholders' funds | 21,687 | 17,504 |
| Dividend per share | 13p | 10p |
| Earnings per share | 62.8p | 6.9p |

Copies of the Directors' Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Davies & Newman Holdings PLC, New City Court, 20 St. Thomas Street, London, SE1 9PL.

5.3 million passengers in 1986. New route London - Lisbon.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES
SPOT AND FORWARD RATES
DOLLAR SPOT RATES
OPTIONAL OPTIONS
OPTIONS

Portfolio - Gold -

From your portfolio card check your right share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company | Group | Share Price |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Graves | Industries E-K | 100 |
| 2 | Micro BS | Electronics | 100 |
| 3 | Tate & Lyle | Food | 100 |
| 4 | Sater | Industries S-Z | 100 |
| 5 | Kleinman Boman | Banks, Discount | 100 |
| 6 | IMI | Industries E-K | 100 |
| 7 | Bethell | Industries A-D | 100 |
| 8 | Aynsley Metal | Industries A-D | 100 |
| 9 | Oxford Instruments | Electronics | 100 |
| 10 | Bristol | Newspapers/Pub | 100 |
| 11 | Mount Claremont | Housing/Chem | 100 |
| 12 | Marston Thompson | Breweries | 100 |
| 13 | Balmer (HPI) | Breweries | 100 |
| 14 | Malvern | Industries A-D | 100 |
| 15 | Int Signal & Control | Electronics | 100 |
| 16 | Alcoa Levens | Lithium | 100 |
| 17 | Office Elect Music | Industries L-R | 100 |
| 18 | Martin & Placard | Food | 100 |
| 19 | Washburn | Industries S-Z | 100 |
| 20 | CEC (Gay) | Electronics | 100 |
| 21 | Miller (Sentry) | Industries L-R | 100 |
| 22 | McKintosh | Industries L-R | 100 |
| 23 | Bowthorpe | Electronics | 100 |
| 24 | Tilbury Group | Building/Roads | 100 |
| 25 | Morland | Breweries | 100 |
| 26 | Della | Industries A-D | 100 |
| 27 | Quest Automation | Electronics | 100 |
| 28 | Dewhurst (LI) | Drugs/Stores | 100 |
| 29 | Rotork | Industries L-R | 100 |
| 30 | Usher TV | Chemicals/TV | 100 |
| 31 | Wood (SW) | Industries S-Z | 100 |
| 32 | Cathay-Schep (SW) | Food | 100 |
| 33 | Beaufort | Industries A-D | 100 |
| 34 | Aluch Chemical | Chemicals/Pha | 100 |
| 35 | Atlantic Comp | Electronics | 100 |
| 36 | Smith David | Paper/Print/Adv | 100 |
| 37 | County "B" | Property | 100 |
| 38 | Clifford Daines | Food | 100 |
| 39 | Heywood Williams | Building/Roads | 100 |
| 40 | Levi | Motors/Aircraft | 100 |
| 41 | Bank Chart (SW) | Banks/Discount | 100 |
| 42 | Liberty | Drugs/Stores | 100 |
| 43 | Samuel | Drugs/Stores | 100 |
| 44 | Scot | Industries S-Z | 100 |
| C Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total | | | 100 |

Please take into account any minus signs

| Weekly Dividend | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper. | | | | | | |
| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | Weekly Total |
| | | | | | | |

| BRITISH FUNDS | | | |
|---------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| SHORTS (Under Five Years) | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| OVER FIFTEEN YEARS | | | |
|--------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| UNDATED | | | |
|---------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| INDEX-LINKED | | | |
|--------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| BANKS DISCOUNT HP | | | |
|-------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| ELECTRICALS | | | |
|-------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| CINEMAS AND TV | | | |
|----------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| DRAPERY AND STORES | | | |
|--------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| HOTELS AND CATERERS | | | |
|---------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| INDUSTRIALS A-D | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| S-Z | | | |
|------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| OIL & GAS | | | |
|-----------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| TOBACCO | | | |
|---------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| SHOES AND LEATHER | | | |
|-------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| TEXTILES | | | |
|----------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| SHIPPING | | | |
|----------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT | | | |
|---------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| MINING | | | |
|--------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| LEISURE | | | |
|---------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| BREWERIES | | | |
|-----------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| BUILDINGS AND ROADS | | | |
|---------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| FINANCE AND LAND | | | |
|------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| FOODS | | | |
|-------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| CHEMICALS, PLASTICS | | | |
|---------------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| E-K | | | |
|------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| L-R | | | |
|------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| S-Z | | | |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

| INDUSTRIALS | | | |
|-------------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| E-K | | | |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| INDUSTRIALS | | | |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| S-Z | | | |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| INDUSTRIALS | | | |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| E-K | | | |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| L-R | | | |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| INDUSTRIALS | | | |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| E-K | | | |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| E-K | | | |
|------|------|-----|-------------|
| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
| | | | |

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES
Equities race ahead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on June 1. Dealings end on Friday. \$Contango day June 15. Settlement day June 22.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are recorded at 5pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close and may differ from changes calculated by comparing 5pm prices, published the previous day. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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| 1987 | High | Low | Share Price |
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PRIVATE HEALTH

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Your health: the crucial vote



Five million in Britain now use private health schemes. What will the future be after tomorrow's election? A report by David Loshak

Though the National Health Service has been a major election topic, the issue of private medicine surfaced late in the election campaign, and with surprising force seeing that the party manifestos hardly mention it at all.

But the future of the independent health care sector, to which more than five million people now look when they need hospital or specialist treatment, could hinge crucially on the outcome of tomorrow's voting.

In the unlikely event of an SDP-Liberal victory, there would be no significant change. "We uphold the right of individuals to use their own resources to obtain private medical care", the Alliance manifesto states. It fore-shadows some possible minor reforms to iron out anomalies in the system, but otherwise has nothing to say on the subject.

But if Neil Kinnock is in No 10 this weekend, change there will certainly be, even if the private health care sector has not felt the need to brace itself against this possibility.

It does not see Labour as quite the ogre that the party's spokesmen have sometimes made it appear when fulminating against "medicine for profit" or "queue-jumping". Private health organizations discount such talk as rhetoric for the benefit of the left-wing gallery.

Significantly, in the boardrooms of the hospital chains and the health insurance organizations, the fiery Barbara Castle, who a decade ago did her best to squelch the private sector, is today toasted as "the patron saint of private medicine".

For they recall how totally counter-productive, according to her lights, her endeavours were. They had the unintended effect of doing more

to stimulate the growth of independent hospitals and the surge of new subscribers to private health insurance than anything that has been done in the Thatcher years.

Chief executives in the private health sector today are confident that any steps a future Labour government might take against them will prove equally helpful in the longer run.

Labour's manifesto, for instance, threatens to phase out the 3,200 paybeds in NHS hospitals. That is understandable. For apart from their symbolic significance to egalitarians of the left, the paybeds are seriously under-priced, and so in effect subsidize private care.

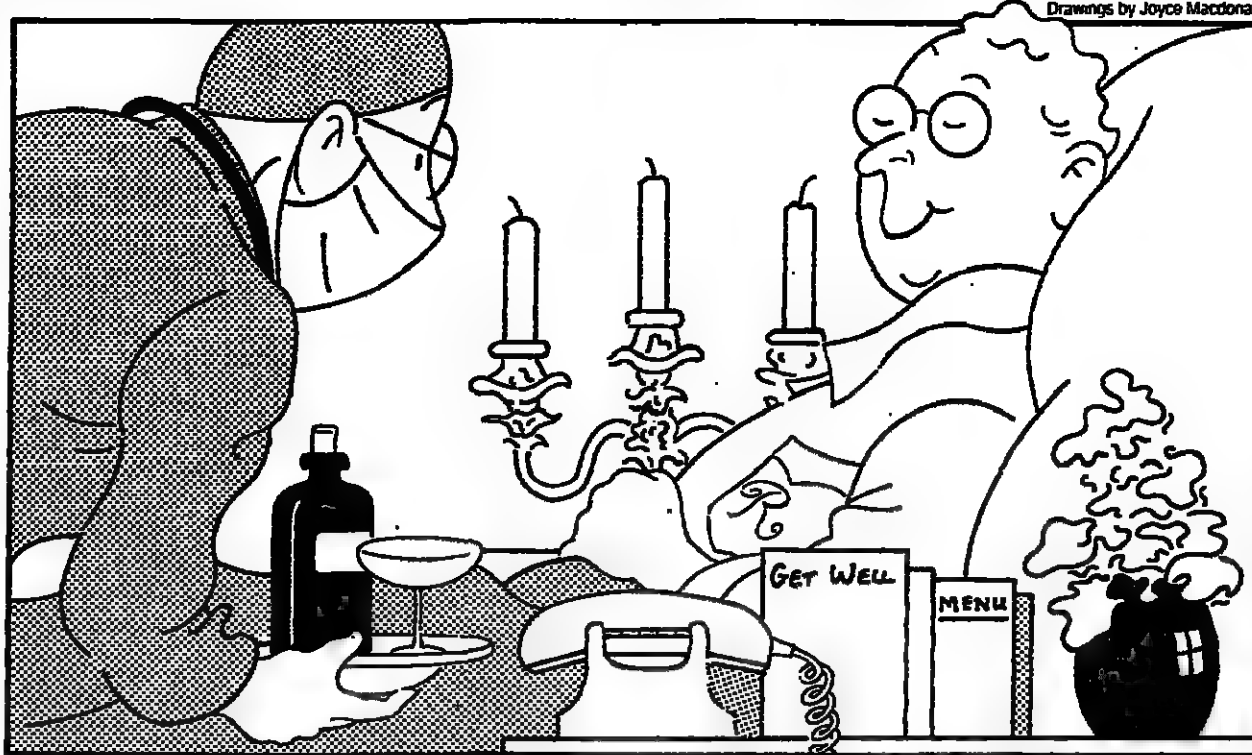
But they account for \$0,000 operations a year — a fifth of all those carried out for private payment.

This means that the NHS itself, paradoxically, is by far the largest provider of private medical care — a handy potential source of income if the beds were properly priced; even now they're worth £70 million a year.

Their abolition would simply send that money in the direction of the commercial operators. It would help fill empty private beds and it would end distortions in the price structure of the market which have worked to the disadvantage of the commercial operators.

Labour might also seek to discourage or prevent consultants in the NHS from undertaking part-time private work. But Labour has taken on the vested interests of the medical profession before now, and retired hurt. In any case, such a measure would, again, probably prove less of a barb than a goad in the longer run.

Other threatening noises have not been taken seriously. For example, Frank Dobson, the shadow health minister for the past four years, has said he



wants American Medical International, the largest of the private hospital chains, chased out of the country.

Some of the left want to see private medicine abolished — although it is significant that Mr Dobson's senior, Michael Meacher, has gone out of his way to praise the contribution of the private sector.

And that is the point. That contribution is too significant, too considerable and too popular for thorough-going legislation against it to be an option. Curbing the private sector drastically would create further immense problems for an already creaking, wobbling NHS.

For their part, the Tories have said nothing in their manifesto on private health. Their eight years of office, likewise, have seen almost nothing done about private medicine except to leave it to its own devices.

But a third term of office could see changes. Health authorities would certainly be further encouraged, and perhaps enabled to enter into more contractual arrangements with the private sector for the provision and sharing of services, staff and equipment. There is also the sugges-

tion, favoured by many Conservatives and put forward by the influential Centre for Policy Studies, that all registered self-employed should be allowed to set health insurance premiums against tax, as companies are already.

Another measure that future Tory treasury and health ministers would be under



'The battle to survive is over'

pressure from their backbenchers to introduce would be health bonds. These would work on the same principle as personal equity plans, whereby return on the initial investment is added tax free to the individual's fund and earmarked for the payment of health insurance payments.

That is for the future, though perhaps the not so distant future. The most signal feature, however, of private health care at this moment of national stocktaking, is that "the battle to survive is over", to quote the assessment of an

executive at BUPA, the largest of the provident insurance organizations.

What is important now, he added, is that the two sectors should work more closely together.

On present showing, private medicine is set to make a far bigger contribution to the nation's health than ever before. It is doing so by placing increasing emphasis on health at the workplace and on the importance of screening and preventive care.

Occupational health schemes are already well developed. Companies have come to realize that they can save huge losses in profitability and competitiveness by taking simple, inexpensive steps to minimize health-related absenteeism.

One party to this is the Confederation of British Industry, which has initiated its own campaign against alcohol and other abuse, one of the costliest forms of ill-health at the workplace.

Many companies and union branches have negotiated occupational health schemes as part of the remuneration package, despite TUC hostility towards such arrange-

ments. Thousands of others have signed on for regular health checks.

Debate during the election campaign has polarized between Labour claiming that the Thatcher years have seen little but cuts in the NHS, while Mrs Thatcher herself has repeatedly claimed that with a budget of £21 billion, the NHS has never had more devoted to it.

In their ways, both sides are right. The paradox arises because, for reasons of both demography (the growing proportion of old people in the population) and medical technology (ever more sophisticated, complex and costly, life-saving and life-enhancing procedures becoming possible all the time), the NHS is bound to suffer cuts even as it receives more funds.

The NHS has great achievements to its credit, but it can never meet all the demands placed upon it, never fulfil all expectations.

That can only mean that the private sector, enterprising, vigorous, flexible and innovative in a way that state-run systems, the NHS among them, seem unable to be, will have an increasingly vital part to play.

In front for the newest cures

For some years, private medicine has led the way in new approaches and new treatments. In-vitro fertilization is offered largely in the private sector, which pioneered its development.

Hospitals such as the Cromwell in Kensington, west London, offer a wide range from kidney and bone marrow transplants to heart surgery and treatment for auditory and speech disorders. In addition to IVF and infertility treatment, and both here and at the Wellington Hospital near Lord's cricket ground, specialists are working on the infertility treatment known as GIFT, for Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer.

The St Martin's Group, the first in Britain to undertake lithotripsy for kidney stones, is turning its flagship, the London Bridge Hospital, into a major centre for renal care, installing the latest generation of shockwave lithotripter (not requiring anaesthesia) and has the potential for treating gallstones and kidney stones.

As its medical director, Dr Barry Scholes, puts it: "We are right next to Guy's and have a tremendous reservoir of consultant expertise on hand. We would like the City to see this as the place to come for diagnostic tests of any kind."

The St Martin's Group is among those using lasers in fields as varied as gastroenterology and eye surgery, colposcopy, which makes it possible to treat women with pre-invasive cervical cancer, and other gynaecological problems, providing a far more accurate diagnosis than cervical smears and so precise in treatment that it enhances the prospect of complete cure.

American Medical International, the largest independent sector group, has made much of the running in setting up specialist units. In addition to laser treatments for skin and eye conditions, and its IVF units (especially at the Park Hospital, Nottingham, where Dr Simon Fishel and his team have achieved international status), it covers sports injuries, family planning, whole body scanning,

neonatal intensive care and neurosurgery.

AMI has also taken a lead in offering ultrasound screening for the early detection of ovarian cancer, which kills twice as many women a year (4,000) as cervical cancer, but has until now been impossible to detect until too late.

Nestor Medical Services has a rehabilitation unit at Unsted Park, near Guildford, Surrey, for back pain, arthritic disorders, neurological disabilities, paraplegia, strokes and head injuries.

Another private sector facility is the Medical Express "fast aid" emergency clinic near Oxford Circus, set up as a no-wait service for minor injuries and ailments, but now also providing dental treatment, osteopathy, chiropody and screening.

The Medical Advisory Service, a registered charity launched in February, provides a general information

Many calls about cosmetic surgery

service on all aspects of medical and health care and how to ensure that it is safe and reputable. Many of its calls have been to do with cosmetic surgery and how to obtain reputable care.

Allergy clinics are another potential source of trouble. Several have been found by the consumer magazine *Which?* to be "unreliable, dubious and risky".

Only the private sector, which can ensure a good return on its heavy capital outlay, can raise the funds for expensive equipment, leading to criticism that the independent sector goes only for the rich pickings, neglecting such "Cinderella areas" as mental handicap and geriatric care.

This is not entirely fair. There are, for example, hundreds of nursing homes all over Britain.

All in all, however, the range of advanced and reputable specialist treatments available in the private sector is as wide as anywhere in the world and growing in scope all the time.

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If after all this, the worst does come to the worst and your employees require hospitalisation, they could

get the best available treatment at a time to suit everyone, perhaps in one of BUPA's own hospitals.

Every good businessman believes that a company is only as good as its people.

And when you consider just how much is invested in those people, it must be worth talking to BUPA about how they can be better protected.

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PRIVATE HEALTH/2

FOCUS

"We're pretty busy here," said Keith Erskine, the administrator at the Princess Grace Hospital in the heart of the Harley Street area, London, "but I happened to mention to one of the surgeons in the theatre that Easter and Christmas were our quiet times."

From that came a remarkable partnership between the private sector and St Bartholomew's; over the four days of Easter, 175 children had

An Easter offering

their ear, nose and throat operations - two theatres going full blast, with Bart's surgeons and anaesthetists and Princess Grace theatre staff and nurses.

Mr Erskine said: "I asked the theatre manager, Sylvia

Douglas, 'Are you and the autoclave keeping up with team from Bart's?' and she replied, 'We're ahead of them.' "It was, he says, a nice thing they wanted to do and all the staff were enthusiastic.

Moreover, the price set by St Bartholomew's - about £217 a case - came out less than it would have cost on the NHS (approximately £280).

And all the patients got an Easter egg as they left. PT

The union rush to 'go private'



Private health has come of age as a big business, with patients from all classes of society paying more than £550m a year in premiums



insurance policies as in motor insurance for the under-25s. This would seem fair, for in general health the insurers have hitherto been remarkably easy going in their attitudes to claims.

But when excess premiums become required for those who smoke, or no-claims discounts are introduced, the sort of client that private medicine attracts will inevitably change again.

The industry has not so far distinguished itself by showing much imagination in devising different forms of cover to suit different needs of potential clients, though PPF has just announced an international SOS assistance plan, available at no extra cost.

The industry could do better, and needs to do so, by offering packages tailor-made for younger, and therefore healthier, people, as the newcomer to the market, Health First, has begun to do.

But there is a need, too, for insurance that helps people of pensionable age, because at the time in their lives when they most need treatment, elderly subscribers usually find themselves excluded, either by cost or because of age.

Many people, also, want cover for such alternative but respectable therapies as homeopathy, acupuncture, hypnotherapy and osteopathy. Because of such factors, these people have weighed up the cost of their premiums and decided that over a period they cost more paying out of their own pockets for treatment from time to time.

Such perceived gaps in provision, and as yet unrealized market opportunities such as the need for convenient, comprehensive packages which provide health insurance with some cover, should tend to bring such intermediate brokers as Remedi and Medisure.

For years, private health insurance was a privileged, or at any rate a snob, preserve. It is certainly no longer that. For years, too, the insurers had an easy, uncompetitive time. That, too, has gone.

What counts now, and will count increasingly and decisively in the years to come, will be more skilful marketing than we have so far seen and, above all, value for money.

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That more than five million people in Britain today, many of them trade unionists or Labour voters - some of them, indeed, Labour peers and MPs - have opted to take out private health insurance, would have astounded, and probably appalled, such visionary founders of the modern welfare state as William Beveridge and Aneurin Bevan.

But the private sector is vigorous today because it has mass popular support. It is so well established and, in some ways, such an extremely useful adjunct to the National Health Service, that in practice, whatever may be said for electioneering purposes, no future Labour government would find it politically possible to dismantle or even significantly diminish it.

In a decade the private sector has more than doubled in size. Until a few years ago, it was the preserve of top executives and the well-to-do. Now, teachers, plumbers, miners and shopkeepers are among the subscribers.

The reason is simple: they feel it is in their best interests to do so. Small businessmen, or the thousands who have become self-employed in recent years, for instance, often cannot afford NHS delays if they need hospital treatment.

Annual premiums costing, typically, £250-£300, are within their reach and health insurance for these groups is the fastest growing sector of the market.

Many in steady employment take a pragmatic view; hundreds of firemen, for example, have taken out private health cover even though their union officially considers that private medicine is "morally wrong".

Then there are 43,000 members of the Electric Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, 50,000 members of the Police Federation, branches of the National Union of Mineworkers, mem-

bers of National Association of Local Government Officers, and 500 shopfloor workers at Ford of Dagenham, among those who have opted "to go private".

Thus, millions of people across the socio-economic spectrum regard private health insurance as no less sensible and prudent than comprehensive cover on the car, mortgage protection or covering household contents against fire or other mishaps.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, given the unhappy shortcomings of the NHS, that more than 9 per cent of the population is now insured.

This represents some £550 million in premiums; private health has come of age as a big business.

The Central Statistical Office's General Household Survey records that a quarter of those ranked as "professional" have policies. A third of those aged 45-65 are covered and one million of those with health insurance are employees and managers.

Thus, even though blue-collar and manual workers now figure among those insured privately, the A and AB socio-economic groups are still the chief purchasers of medical cover.

Nevertheless, there are 500,000 or so skilled and semi-skilled men and women who have opted for schemes offered by BUPA, Private Patients Plan, Western Provident, Health First or one of the smaller insurance organizations. Many - firemen and police, for instance - are in particularly high-risk or high-stress occupations.

It is understandable that they should perceive that private health insurance is good value. The private sector carries out twice as many heart operations as its size, relative to the NHS, would suggest.

While patients may die before they reach the head of the NHS queue for hip replacements, these are readily

available privately, and a quarter of all such operations are performed in independent hospitals.

Of all elective surgery, private medicine accounts for no less than 15 per cent.

It is such factors that explain why the health insurance market is growing at 3-5 per cent a year, denoting a net annual increase of some 200,000.

The operative word, however, is "net". What the bald statistic masks is that for all the new subscribers who come into the private sector there

For some, the premiums have doubled, trebled, even quadrupled in only two years

are old ones who drop out, not only because they die.

In the past three years, in particular, premium rises of around 10 per cent every six months have led many people to cancel their policies.

For most subscribers, the increases, if unwelcome, have been tolerable; they have also, incidentally, tended to compound the problem by encouraging them to claim their

full entitlements. But for some subscribers, particularly those who have become redundant and thereby lost the advantage of heavily discounted company schemes, premiums have doubled, trebled or even quadrupled in only two years.

The insurance providers are well aware of the problem. They have taken steps to keep the most recent premium rises down to not much more than the general rate of inflation.

But two further countervailing factors, neither particularly welcome, have arisen.

First, by expanding the market, the insurers have steadily taken on higher risk groups. The Black Report and other studies have shown that the lower down the socio-economic scale you go the less healthy people are likely to be.

The 43,000 EETPU members, for example, checked after joining a BUPA scheme, were found to be significantly more prone to heart disease and other stress-related conditions than their employers and managers.

That brings in the second factor. To offset increases in the payments that going down-market leads them to make, the insurers have begun to introduce new limits on the extent of cover they provide.

It would seem only a matter of time, and probably not much time, before there are as many exclusion clauses and caveats embodied in health

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FOCUS

PRIVATE HEALTH/3

A joint way to reduce the queues for beds



A bugbear of every health care system, whether it is state-funded or based on private provision, is the difficulty of holding down costs. But although the NHS and the independent sector could both help themselves in that respect by collaboration in joint projects, there has been much more talk of this so far than real action.

Surveys carried out by the Royal Institute of Public Administration and the Nuffield Centre for Health Service Studies show that the most common form of interchange, is the use of clinical facilities, such as pathology, radiology and pharmacy, with private hospitals buying services from the NHS rather than vice versa, writes David Loshak.

Nevertheless, at least a quarter of the 202 district health authorities in England and Wales have contracted out long-term care to the private sector. The reason for this has often been "creative accounting", enabling health authorities to transfer a cost from an overstretched health budget to some other account.

Nevertheless, the public sector now spends £5 million a year sending seriously disturbed young people to private psychiatric units, such as AMU's two units at Kneeworth, near Cambridge, and Langton House, Dorset, and the charity-based St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton. The facilities they provide are lacking in the NHS.

There have been fewer instances of acute care being contracted out to the private sector by the NHS, and nearly always the arrangement has been regarded by both sides as

short-term. Even so, some 10,000 operations are contracted out each year to the private sector, with 60 private hospitals involved. But for the 400,000 operations a year in the private sector, the NHS waiting list of 650,000 would rise alarmingly.

Such arrangements, notes William Laing, in an Office of Health Economics report on Private Health Care, are "second order issues, an avenue of last resort when efforts at achieving an in-house solution fail". But the interchanges have usually worked well, he observes.

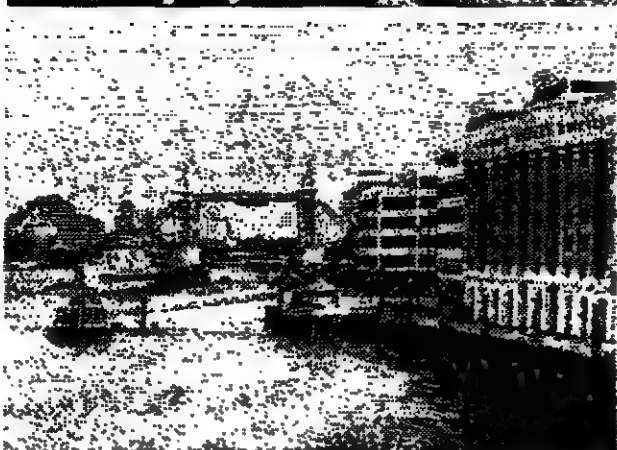
It is beginning to look as if health authorities are now getting this message. There have been some major developments recently which foreshadow much greater collaboration between the two sectors in future.

A joint venture between St Bartholomew's Hospital and American Medical International's Portland Hospital for women and children will set up two test-tube baby units, providing 550 treatments a year, and saving the existing unit at Barts which has been threatened with closure.

Doctors and support staff will, for the first time, rotate between the public and private sectors.

This could set a pattern for the future in several areas of specialist treatment where the NHS lacks resources. A potentially even more significant development has occurred at Guy's, which has decided to contract out the management of its 47 NHS pay beds to the Hospital Capital Corporation.

The company will spend £4 million to upgrade the private wing and run it like a modern private hospital. Guy's stands to make at least £200,000 a year out of its share of the profits.



Capital projects: four of London's major new hospitals that have sprung up over the past decade with the growth of private health care to around five million subscribers in Britain — top, The Princess Grace; below left, the London Bridge and the Cromwell; below right, the Lister

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In its last weeks, the outgoing government has welcomed this initiative and if the Conservatives return to power, similar ventures will be officially encouraged. There is clearly untapped commercial potential in NHS hospitals which private capital could do much to develop.

A recent paper on the NHS by the Centre for Policy Studies, which has had considerable influence on subsequent Conservative policies, suggests, for example, that district health authorities could raise private capital to build hospitals which could then be rented out.

Or there could be joint ventures between health authorities and private capital whereby expensive items of equipment could be financed and run by a private sector management company.

As it is, the independent hospitals are notable for having a lot of high technology equipment. This is an opportunity for NHS districts, which often lack the funds for such machinery but have a patient demand for it, to buy in the private sector facilities on a contractual basis.

During the election campaign, a major issue has been the length of NHS waiting

lists, and here, too, there is scope for co-operation between the two sectors.

BUFA Hospitals has suggested to local health authorities that it could help them reduce the queue of those waiting for acute operations. BUFA's 11 hospitals, and almost all other private hospitals, are under-occupied at week-ends and holiday periods, so could well be used at such times by NHS patients.

The private sector has its eyes on the extra funds that have been earmarked by the Health Department for reducing waiting lists and see this as a development which could

lead to closer collaboration all round.

In the longer run, this means a market environment in which the two sectors would constructively compete on equal terms, as well as co-operate, to provide the optimum service suited to each locality.

A major hurdle still to be overcome is the resistance to such change on the part of health authority members. But the new breed of NHS managers is alive to the opportunities, and in the longer run, given the encouragement and impetus from above, will move to exploit them.



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PRIVATE HEALTH/4

FOCUS

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While most benefits that patients gain from private health care have been fully and frequently detailed over the past decade, there has been little public discussion about its advantages for doctors, nurses and other hospital staff. These are significant.

In an era when everyone seems to have become more money-conscious, it might be thought that the chief advantage for those who work in the private sector is better pay. But, surprisingly perhaps, that is not the case — at least, according to the doctors and nurses themselves.

Consultants, it is true, can dramatically increase their earnings by undertaking private practice, but not only can the early years be lean (for it can take time to acquire the reputation which can bring in the patients and attract high fees), but for most consultants the motivation to go private is not primarily financial.

Miss Taber worked for some years at one of the best NHS hospitals in Britain, so did not come to the private sector out of disenchantment. It was the attraction, she says,

Environment encourages the staff to be enterprising

positive and upbeat," says Sally Taber, director of nursing for the St Martin's group of hospitals, which places particular emphasis on renal care, an area in which the NHS has consistently underperformed.

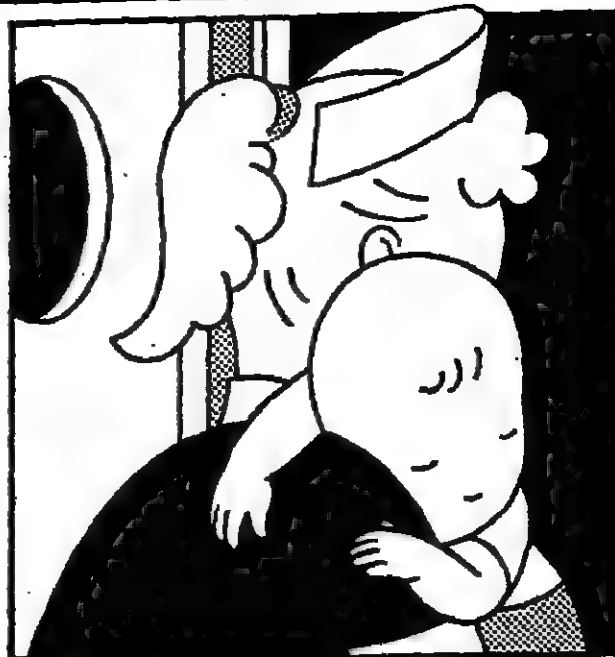
Miss Taber worked for some years at one of the best NHS hospitals in Britain, so did not come to the private sector out of disenchantment. It was the attraction, she says,

of a working in an environment where, instead of constantly worrying about how to cope, she and her staff are encouraged and enabled to be enterprising.

"We are encouraged to achieve higher standards through training and courses. I certainly thought I would miss the research side, in which I was heavily involved in the NHS, but there too I have received every opportunity."

Miss Taber notes other advantages: "We do not waste nearly as much time and money as in the NHS. And when an important management decision is needed — the green light for a new piece of equipment, for example — we can get an answer quickly, instead of having to go through committee after committee over a period of months. You can make things happen fast."

Julie Hartley-Cooper, transplant co-ordinator at the London Bridge Hospital, also transferred recently from the NHS, but for hardly any extra money, she says. "The job I do



rather than a bundle of symptoms. Moreover, he is in continuous clinical charge from first to last, with no delegating to junior staff.

As most NHS consultants now earn well over £30,000 a year — and 2,500 earn at least £45,000 — they hardly need private fees to live comfortably. Those who reach the top of the Harley Street scale, and often opt out of the NHS altogether instead of working part-time for each sector, can be counted as wealthy, with annual earnings well into six figures. But these, of course, are an untypical minority.

For managers, the challenges are different. While both doctors and nurses attest to the way the private sector is professionally stimulating as compared with the NHS, managers arguably have an easier time than their much harassed state sector colleagues. Private sector management simply does not have to handle the manifold demands placed on the NHS, either in degree or kind.

But that does not mean it is a cushy job. The independent hospitals have long taken justifiable pride in the quality of care. They are proud, too, of their efficiency and are, above all, unceasingly concerned with the need to control costs in fields where this is notoriously and increasingly difficult.

Drugs: still fears of side-effects in spite of the successes

If other businesses had done as well as Britain's pharmaceutical industry "there would be little concern about the UK economy and its international competitiveness", said the Pharmaceuticals Economic Development Committee of the National Economic Development Office, in a recent report.

This saw the industry as a notable example of a high technology research-intensive sector which has been successful despite increasing government interference, writes David Loshak.

Yet the industry is not much loved even by Conservative governments, certainly not by Labour politicians, and not by the public, even though its products — among them some of the most brilliant developments of modern science — have saved thousands of lives, reduced suffering from illness and disease on a huge scale, and helped improve health indices of almost every kind, not only in Britain and other affluent nations, but throughout the developing world.

Hugh Elwell, an adviser to several of the major private health care groups says: "Many people, even some of those, oddly, who provide private health care, consider that making a profit from ill-health is positively obscene."

The pharmaceutical industry, of course, makes handsome profits. Moreover, these come from what are loosely called "drugs", an

The blacklist of products

unfortunate word for what are medicines, vaccines and anaesthetics.

Since the thalidomide disaster, a wide public has distrusted the industry. Although non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, for example, have proved a boon for millions of arthritis sufferers, a tiny proportion of these have died or been harmed after taking the medicines and the cases have been highlighted. Stubborn resistance, on legal

advice, to claims for compensation from victims or their families has tarnished the industry's image.

The public is understandably alarmed when patients, relatively tiny in numbers though they are, die or suffer as a result of taking medicines. It is, however, an inescapable fact, no less in pharmacology than energy production, air travel or even sport, that benefits are seldom without risk. Do the benefits outweigh the risks?

Governments have to function in this climate of hostile opinion. Ministers of both major parties have consistently focussed on the pharmaceutical industry when looking for economies.

It was this which engendered the blacklist of products that doctors are forbidden to prescribe. The Thatcher government's pledge not to extend the list applied only to the lifetime of the last Parliament and the chances are that it will be added to before long.

But only a tenth of the NHS

budget goes on medicines. As many of these are preventive, their use is often an economy — they are much cheaper than surgery or hospital treatment.

Britain spends a third less per head on medicines than Italy, a half as much as France and the United States and two thirds less than Switzerland and West Germany.

Nor is it being fleeced, as many

The scapegoat for high costs

industry critics contend. Company prices and return on capital are controlled by the Health Department through the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme.

Having unilaterally reduced the industry's target return on capital to the point where some companies were forced to close research facilities and shed staff, ministers have recently acknowledged that they went too far. The industry's scientific and economic track record

suggests that it has not deserved to be the scapegoat for high costs.

Among the industry's critics is a network of pressure groups such as Health Action International and Social Audit who, along with Oxfam and War on Want, see things differently, among the industry's other enemies are the supporters of animal rights.

Yet, without vaccines, amputees could not have been eradicated. Without anti-coagulants, heart transplants would be impossible.

Stomach ulcers, high blood pressure, mental illness, infertility, allergies and a host of other conditions can be cured or alleviated with modern medicines.

Moreover, research now being undertaken by the pharmaceutical industry holds out promise of being able to prevent or relieve many kinds of cancer, senile dementia, diabetes, multiple sclerosis and such tropical scourges as leprosy.

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FOCUS

PRIVATE HEALTH/5

Luxury loses out to better caring



Private sector medicine accounts for a sixth of all major hospital treatment in England and Wales. In its 149 hospitals—twice as many as a decade ago—the sector treats more than 400,000 patients. It does so, moreover, in conditions strikingly unlike those in the National Health Service.

When the 119-bed London Bridge Hospital, which is becoming, among other things, a leading centre for renal care, opened two years ago, it was deplored by *The Lancet* as "obscenely opulent."

In fact, only a handful of the independent hospitals, such as the Humana Group's 225-bed Wellington, a favourite of wealthy Arabs, or the extensively and expensively equipped Cromwell, is in the luxury class.

Dr Barry Scholes, chief executive and medical director of the St Martin's Group, says that at the London Bridge something like 20 per cent of the beds are in shared accommodation, while at the group's other main hospital, the Lister, the target is 33 per cent.

The truly luxurious hospitals date from the 1970s, he observes. "Their considerable capital cost in the end gets passed on to the patient."

"To stay in business, we

have to adopt a different approach. So, far from offering luxury, we do not offer even total privacy. What we provide is good technology, safe procedures, the opportunity to pick your consultant and your time and the best possible balance between cost and benefit."

Dr Scholes says that at both the London Bridge and the Lister, bed-occupancy rates have been high almost from the start. This suggests that supply and demand are well-matched, despite concern that the unrestricted growth of the private sector in London and the South-East has caused over-provision of beds and facilities.

As new beds have opened, other units in the sector have closed. Though there may be spare room at the very top of the market, the trend otherwise, both in London and the provinces, has been towards well-equipped hospitals which are purpose-built and make good economic sense.

Those which were older, smaller and not purpose-built have gone to the wall.

It is the religious and charitable hospitals which have felt the draught most keenly. Some, like the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, near Lord's Cricket Ground in London, have been able to raise the millions needed for modernization, but most cannot keep pace in an era when colour TV is considered mandatory and when equipment



The Harley Street Clinic, part of the American Medical Insurance Group, Britain's leader in private health care

such as CAT scanners cost the best part of £1 million each.

The same processes have, unfortunately, tended to overwhelm smaller, privately owned hospitals. Developments, such as the New Hall at Salisbury, Wiltshire, in which doctors have had a stake. Just as supermarkets have

AMI, and such other American groups as the Hospital Corporation of America, with 10 hospitals, have married the best of British medical and nursing skills with American entrepreneurial flair to bring considerable vigour to the private health-care scene.

Both AMI and the largest British group, Nuffield Hospitals, which has undertaken a £30 million upgrading programme, have moved into a field of increasing importance, day-care surgery. New medical techniques make this form of procedure feasible for a wide range of conditions and cheaper than in-patient accommodation.

Cost is the key to the whole operation of private health care in an era when modernization and the high price of capital equipment, rising staff salaries and the increasing need for specialist nurse training, play so large a part in determining the fees or premiums that patients pay.

Even day-care surgery, while cutting costs largely on accommodation, adds to them in other respects. It requires more intensive nursing care, for instance.

Nuffield, AMI and others have also introduced fixed-cost surgery schemes in co-operation with the big insurers. This offers a wide range of surgical procedures, including consultants' fees, and state the exact total cost of an operation before a patient enters hospital.

Both patients and insurers are guaranteed that they will have nothing extra to pay if unforeseen complications arise directly from the original operation.

"The system works very well," says John Cassell, AMI's marketing director. "This year, we have refined it so that the complexities of individual procedures are more precisely related to the charges."

Oliver Rowell, the general manager of Nuffield Hospitals, foresees that fixed-price surgery schemes will lead to preferred provider arrangements whereby corporate buyers in effect receive volume-based discounts by sending extra business to a given hospital or hospital group.

Nuffield is concerned about doctors' fees, too. "Controlling costs may need to include the vigorous direction of patients to cheaper doctors," Mr Rowell warns.

"We want to provide industry and commerce with an acceptable quality of health care at an acceptable price. If we fail, corporate interests in private health care will decline and that will lead to a reduced, less-effective private sector."

But the medical area with the greatest potential in this regard is only just beginning to be tapped. The near future will see developments in preventive medicine. It is here that private sector will, again, set new standards of quality for British health care.

enormous, voluntary programme for its 230,000 people to combat the danger from coronary heart disease—the biggest killer. All staff aged over 40 have been invited to take blood-pressure and urine tests. Dr Gwynn Hughes, BT's chief medical officer, is delighted with the number of people taking part, adding that other hidden conditions, such as diabetes, have been discovered and can be treated.

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There are checks, including X-rays and electrocardiograms (ECGs), for the whole body, for height, weight, blood, urine, hearing, sight (I forgot my glasses, so I was no great help) two lots of blood pressure, one at the beginning one at the end, lungs (I have asthma—St Bartholomew's Chest and Allergy Clinic allow me the best of three, but one for Bupa possibly showed I was not breathing at all.)

Gynaecological checks are

always unpleasant, sometimes quite painful, and the mammogram, by a machine designed by someone who had heard about women but never seen one, grabs each breast separately and squeezes hard. Yes, they say apologetically, it is the best way to X-ray the breast.

A consultant encourages you to discuss any problems or worries (a form has been filled in beforehand, including drinking habits, and whether you smoke). A week later I received the kind of letter which we all dread: the news that one of the breast X-rays indicated a follow-up was necessary, and that I should contact my own doctor.

Within a week I had seen a consultant (a needle biopsy is a good test of the theory that if you don't look, it doesn't hurt) had the X-rays analysed and discovered that all I needed now was another X-ray in four months' time.

Claire Rayner, the "Agony Aunt" said that, though she trained in medicine, the four days between hearing bad news and getting to her doctor were some of the worst she could remember.

She was helping to launch Life Wise, a screening service for women by Health First, in *Woman's Own* magazine, to reach a large number of women. For breast and cervical cancer only, it covers the

full cost of investigation, private treatment and post-operative follow-up examinations for up to 10 years. It will also cover cosmetic breast reconstruction.

Differential rates are offered for people who have already been screened and those who have not, and the cost increases with age, ie, in the 18-24 group the annual cost could be £33 or £44, for those from 50-65 the rate is £77 or £88.

Like other private insurance, a pre-existing condition will not be eligible. From today until Friday, there is a phone-in at Health First (0202 292 434) sponsored by *Woman's Own* when doctors and coun-

sellers will answer on breast problems.

Men are still the most likely to have the tests under company schemes. Medical Express (01-499 1991) does several kinds—Well Woman check for £50 (full screen for £150), for men (Mediscreen £130) and a screen for those going (or coming) from places abroad with special risks, such as hepatitis (or, still uncommonly, AIDS).

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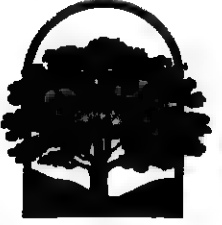
Post Code _____ Tel No. _____

UHS International Ltd.



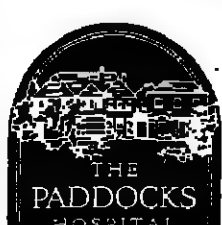
London Independent Hospital

The London Independent Hospital — Caring is our business.



SHIRLEY OAKS HOSPITAL

Shirley Oaks Hospital — All the care in the world on your doorstep.



THE PADDOCKS HOSPITAL

The Paddocks Hospital — Where caring comes naturally.

The London Independent Hospital, Beaumont Square, Stepney Green, London E1 4NL. Telephone: 01-790 0990

Shirley Oaks Hospital, Poppy Lane, Shirley Oaks Village, Croydon, Surrey CR9 8AB. Telephone: 01-655 2255

The Paddocks Hospital, Aylesbury Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP17 0JS. Telephone: (08444) 6951

UHS International Limited has been established in Great Britain since 1985. It acquired The Paddocks Hospital, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, in October 1985 and in 1986 opened the Shirley Oaks Hospital, Croydon, Surrey in August and The London Independent Hospital in October. This significant investment within one year demonstrates the Company's commitment to developing private health care services that are available to all.

Each hospital is very well equipped to provide a comprehensive range of in-patient and out-patient services. Standards are under constant review to ensure that quality patient care is achieved always.

Situated in the heart of London's East End, the London Independent Hospital is a very special concept in health care. It makes available on one site the entire spectrum of medical and surgical services supported by the latest technology and research. It is renowned for its excellent screening services and other out-patient facilities.

The hospital is ideally situated to meet the health care needs of the expanding city business and docklands development areas and has extensive car parking facilities on site.

For further information on any of our many facilities, please ring 01-790 0990.

This purpose built hospital, set in open green space just five minutes away from Croydon, was designed primarily for the local community.

Its Obstetric Unit, which is to open shortly, will complement the fully equipped facilities normally found in the larger London hospitals.

Shirley Oaks Hospital offers its patients a total health care package ranging from major surgery to screening programmes.

For further information on any of our facilities, please ring 01-655 2255.

Set in the tranquil Buckinghamshire town of Princes Risborough, the Paddocks Hospital enjoys a reputation for quality care. It is well equipped to carry out major surgical procedures in orthopaedics, gynaecology, ophthalmology, oral, plastic and general surgery.

The specialist spinal injuries/rehabilitation unit attracts patients from all over the world. Its intensive care programme provides treatment designed to improve the quality of life for these patients and those with head injuries and other neurological complications.

For further information on any of our facilities, please telephone (08444) 6951.

MEDIA & MARKETING

Into China

Brands like Nescafé and Coca Cola are flying the western flag on Chinese TV

Western advertisers greedy for new consumers are growing excited about an emerging nation of telly-watchers — a country where 600 million viewers (from a population of one billion) now watch TV on 100 million sets, and are becoming daily more discerning in their TV viewing habits. Western admen will learn more about this massive market when they attend the Third World Advertising Congress which opens in Peking on Sunday.

The first major study of Chinese television viewing has been carried out by a New York and Hong Kong-based marketing consultancy, China Communications, a DFS Dorland, a worldwide advertising agency. The result is a 1,000-page report called *Reaching Out to China*, which shows who is watching television in China, and what they watch.

Chinese viewers, it seems, are anxious for more and better programmes. Instead of the traditionally bland broadcasts of the third bicycle co-operative's sports day, they will soon have the opportunity to see *The Sound of Music* and *Love Story*, and thrill to *Spartacus*. Walt Disney films are being screened, and the next Olympics will be broadcast live.

Chinese ads are traditionally factual — where to get truck tyres, or ball bearings, and how much they cost. But now home-grown ads for toothpaste, hair care and cosmetics are beginning to appear, and a handful of western advertisers like Coca Cola, Boeing, Nescafé, Seiko and Procter and Gamble have already begun campaigns on Chinese TV.

Clifford Jones, chairman of China Communications, says his study shows how "astoundingly significant" television has become to the Chinese people.

Jonathan Arnold

End of a comic affair

Alan Coren, who is leaving *Punch*, talks to Libby Purves about his decade as editor and his plans for the future



Alan Coren: "A nanny, raising young ideas, deciding how to treat them, handing them over"

In 146 years *Punch* has had 11 editors: when this year ends it will reach the dozen. At the weekend Alan Coren announced that he was leaving, after 25 years on the magazine's staff, "to become a full-time writer". We have six months to enjoy the conflicting rumours about his successor in one of the oddest, and hottest, seats in the world of British publishing.

Ten years ago, when Coren inherited the editorship of *Punch* from William Davis, he observed that it was a case of the lunatics at last taking over the asylum. It was fair comment: Davis had been a brilliant fixer and magazine manager, cracking the whip over a stable of temperamental humorists, whereas Alan Coren's qualifications lay not in management or leadership, but strictly on the printed page. Here was a joker, a parodist, a savage but romantic clown, the sort of man who shut himself in his office, banging his typewriter, frowning and laughing maniacally to himself.

He had been recruited to *Punch* at the age of 24, its youngest ever assistant editor, on the strength of a handful of articles he had sent to Bernard Hollowood, the editor at the time, during a year's work in the United States. "I was in America, and America was the funniest place I had ever been to, so it was easy."

He is a plumber's son, a triumphant product of the days of grammar schools and public libraries, which took boys like Coren and Keith Waterhouse and showed them far horizons. He won a scholarship to Oxford where he obtained a first in English: "I didn't work hard. I just made phrases. You can pass exams by making phrases."

"But I always enjoyed writing and reading humour more than anything else. I get no charge out of other kinds of writing. I know how I am supposed to respond to the strangling of Desdemona, but never actually reached catharsis. I respond to a bit of sentimentality or nostalgia, but comedy moves me more than anything. Attempts to make statements about the

human condition just irritate me. I like comic commentary on the fact that we have happened, not speculation about why."

His own humour is therefore comic, based on a mixture of solid suburban common sense and wild literary fantasy. He loves to retell current events as Hemingway or Scott Fitzgerald or D. H. Lawrence: he parodies with dreadful accuracy across a range from Barbara Cartland to current *Speculator* fables ("sitting thankfully celibate at the centre of £30 of good hairy Lovat tweed").

When he writes as himself, it is never from mundane

disgust or disapproval, but from somewhere out on the wilder edges of consciousness. He writes best when he sounds close to hysteria, like a man starting awake in the night from a dream of chaos. If he has a fault, it is putting in too many words and too many jokes, but that is a fault of exuberance and has to be forgiven in a prolific journalist who is pushing 50. What you never get with Coren is the sense that he is saving up a few good lines for next week's piece.

However, none of this qualifies a man to be an editor. An editor, as he says with some frustration, has to have "the selflessness that goes with captaincy. God knows it's hard

enough to find ideas. I have to find 20 every week and give 19 of them away. I'm a nanny, raising young ideas, deciding how to treat them, then handing them over."

He has to know how to turn pieces down, even to offend established writers. Coren is notorious for throwing out pieces, even by his cherished regulars — and an editor of *Punch* has a particularly painful job when it comes to reproof or rejection: it is 20 times crueler, because of the English veneration of a sense of humour, to turn down a *Punch* piece or cartoon than it is to reject an ordinary newspaper or magazine article. Telling someone they haven't made you laugh is, he says,

"like telling them they're a lousy lover or a bad driver".

This perennial problem apart, the job itself has changed around him. When he came to *Punch* it was part of a small company in old offices. Now, with a latest ABC average circulation figure of 64,843, it is in a sleek modern block and owned by a slick, modern company, a small part of Express Newspapers.

An editor is inevitably a departmental manager as well as father-confessor to his own contributors. "I came to *Punch* because I loved comedy," says Coren. "I wanted to be in a place surrounded by comic writers. Being an editor has changed me: it took a long while, but it has."

It says much for Coren that he has preserved the affable, collegiate spirit of the *Punch* table into the 1980s.

He was the first to discover and encourage such talents as Miles Kingston and Tina Brown. His own lieutenants are also men he found himself, like David Taylor and that newly-arrived master of wild invective, Michael Bywater, and on the whole he commands their love and respect.

I have had an intermittent status as one of his writers for 16 years: and have found him an unerring, challenging, but always exhilarating, editor. He can be crusty, short and woundingly decisive (he once rejected an idea of mine with the syllable "Naah!"), but he is generous and perceptive, and will rewrite anything to please. Oh yes, and in conversation it is still blessedly easy to make him laugh immoderately. Not bad, after 25 years laughing for a living.

But he has had enough. He is abandoning the management career he never meant to start and preparing to write "a novel, more children's books and an autobiography of our times. Oh yes, and a biography of God." But will he write for *Punch* under a new editor? "Oh yes, I think so," he says. "I certainly think so."

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BYLINES

ITN bids for top spot

Tomorrow night's election finale will provide Independent Television News with a golden opportunity to prove that it could become Britain's broadcaster of news to the world.

The ITV news-gathering organization has been furious at the Government's apparent intention to give, without tendering, the £8 million contract for a satellite-distributed World Television News Service to BBC External Services. The start of such a service is the top priority of John Tusa, External Services managing director, who has been lobbying the Foreign Office for a decision to go ahead. But that decision has been postponed because of the election.

However, ITN is using this election as a showcase for its ability to do the job. During its five and a half hours live election results coverage, which will be seen in over 30 countries via five British Telecom international communications satellites, it will present half-hourly world news bulletins, market reports and weather updates.

Bob Hunter, executive producer, says: "We will show we can provide news to the world as an international broadcaster," emphasizing that the exercise is aimed at making the Foreign Office think twice about giving the job to the BBC.

BR's bad news

British Rail is surprisingly unconcerned by Robert Maxwell's decision to switch to distribution by road for his Mirror Group Newspapers titles. "MGN represented only a small part of our newspaper distribution network — just £5 million out of £125 million worth of business," said a BR spokesman, adding: "Our service is fast, reliable and not affected by bad weather."

Maxwell's papers will now be distributed through the Newsflow company he set up with National Carriers for the *London Daily News*.

Trendy Beeb

John Birt clearly has no intention of shedding the pop tastes he displayed at London Weekend Television now that he holds the sober post of deputy director general of the BBC. Last week he was spotted emerging elated from the Wembley concert given by veteran radical American rock star Neil Young. Birt revealed that on a visit to the Radio 1's *Newswest* newsroom he had heard an ignorant reporter shout "Who's Neil Young?" and had been delighted to supply the answer.

Boom mag

First it was endorsed by Eddy Shah, but now it seems that desk-top publishing is truly the coming printing thing, since it is about to get its first proper trade magazine. Dennis Publishing is expected to

launch a monthly magazine next month offering layman's advice on this booming small business.

Pop go videos

Britain has surrendered its creative supremacy in pop video production to America, according to Keith Macmillan, producer of Channel 4's video-based *Chart Show* and its stylistically innovative young current affairs show, *Newsworld*. "Britain used to have the best video directors, but now the most exciting videos are being made in America," says Macmillan, who directed over 600 pop videos. "Because the record companies are no longer adventurous and are making videos only for children's TV shows, we've lost one of our great visual flagships."

Briefing . . .

Gruener and Jahr, the German publisher of highly successful new women's magazine, *Prima*, is planning spin-off titles here covering cookery, DIY and knitting. . . The ACTT, the technicians' union, has capitulated to LWT's threat to farm out major drama series to independent producers and now will allow the company to pick key freelance technicians for filming. . . The latest attempt to establish a national colour supplement for free distribution through major regional newspaper groups is being planned for this autumn by Hamfield Publications. . .

David Housham

European Media Sales

A rare opportunity to combine European travel and a career with the UK's foremost business publishers.

We are looking for a European Advertisement Representative; created by expansion, this exciting new position will require you to service and expand existing accounts whilst researching and developing new ones. Anything underground from Cable TV to the Channel Tunnels falls within the scope of Tunnels and Tunnelling, an international monthly combining high level finance and high technology.

Sales experience preferably in media, coupled with a good knowledge of European languages is desirable and excellent communication skills, resourcefulness and good organisational ability are essential. It will be necessary to spend up to two weeks at a time in mainland Europe travelling mainly by car.

If you meet these requirements and want to be a key member of a small and highly successful team we would like to hear from you.

Based in London the position commands a highly attractive package comprising salary, commission, a wide choice of company car, five weeks holiday and all the benefits associated with a company of Morgan-Grampian's standing.

Write, in the first instance with a c.v. and a phone number where you may be contacted, to: Chris Barnes, Advertisement Manager, Tunnels and Tunnelling, Morgan-Grampian plc., 30 Calderwood Street, London SE18 6QH

The Company is an equal opportunities employer.



The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

HEAD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

£22-25,000 + Benefits

The Opportunity

To direct communications and information services for a profession of 78,000 and its public. Substantial staff and financial resources are available for a function which has notably broken new ground in the past 2 years, with vigorous support from members.

The Requirements

Include innovative flair, management talent, interpersonal skills, a taste for diversity.

The successful candidate

will probably be a graduate, early 30's with demonstrable aptitude and proven track record gained possibly in a P.R. consultancy or a diverse conglomerate.

Interested and well qualified applicants are invited to call Vicky Mann for an initial chat in confidence or write to her at 20, Connaught Lane, London EC4R 3TE. Tel: 01-226 7307

VICKY MANN & ASSOCIATES

SEARCH AND SELECTION SPECIALIST IN P.R. AND MARKETING

THE BURLINGTON MAGAZINE

Promotion/Circulation/Assistant

Responsible, under the supervision of the General Manager, for promoting the magazine to potential subscribers, handling subscription enquiries, overseeing subscription administration, and dealing with any other matters relating to the circulation of the magazine.

The ideal candidate will be a good communicator, enthusiastic, highly motivated and literate, with some knowledge of art history and the art world, and a good grasp of detail. Typing is essential; languages (French/German/Italian) useful; some experience of magazine publishing or of promotional/P.R. work would be an advantage. Suitable for recent graduates.

The Burlington Magazine is a leading international monthly magazine covering the fine and decorative arts. The successful applicant will be working as part of a small team in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

Salary according to age and experience.

Applications with CV stating present salary and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to: Miss Kate Trevelyan, General Manager, The Burlington Magazine, 6 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2EP (Tel: 01-430 0481).

HIGH CLASS MAYFAIR JAPANESE RESTURANT REQUIRE RESTURANT MANAGER

Japanese speaking £14,000 pa + bonus at least 5 years experience working hours Monday - Saturday (Saturday Dinner only) tel 01 493 3807 Mr F Miyama

MEDIA TELEVISION

Two major television contractors are looking for Trainees for their Sales Department. You will be educated to at least A Level standard with 1 years work experience preferably within sales, or, perhaps a graduate looking to take your first step.

MARKETING AND RESEARCH

Vacancies exist for Trainees in a number of television contractors, working in conjunction with the Sales Departments, and in advertising agencies in the Media Departments. Graduate preferred or relevant qualifications, work experience.

If you are interested in any of the above, write telling us why you would be suitable and enclose your C.V. to:

LIFTON FLEMING Recruitment Consultants 3rd Floor 76 Shaftesbury Avenue London W1V 7DG Tel. 01 734 5991

LIFTON FLEMING RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SALES PROFESSIONAL

Experienced sales person required for expanding marine business based in Southampton. Nautical experience not essential. Potentially very high rewards for the right person, excellent career prospects.

Please write with full C.V. to:

The Sales Director, R.T. Marine, Shamrock Quay, William St, Northam, Southampton SO1 1QL.

SALES EXECUTIVES

Money and Money International are among the fastest-growing titles in the specialist consumer field. We are looking for a capable and intelligent advertisement sales representative to expand our market share. You should have experience in this field, be strongly motivated, and be adept at agency presentation and negotiation.

In return we can offer an excellent salary package. But first, let me know how good you are. Write, with your c.v., to: Ken McAllister, Publisher, Money Magazine Limited, Thames House, 18 Park Street, London SE1 9ER.

MONEY MAGAZINE LTD

AGB ART EDITOR

AGB Publications require an Art Editor to help develop the image of our trade and technical journals. Within our close-knit team there is plenty of scope to direct photography and to develop and produce excellent editorial layout and design.

If you have approximately three years' experience with good typographic and editorial layout abilities, be self-motivated and have the character to cope under pressure, please contact: Sylvia White, AGB Publications Limited, Audit House, 2nd Floor, Eastcote, Enslin, Middlesex HA4 9LT. Telephone: 01-568-4499.

GRADUATE P.A.

ITC ENTERTAINMENT LTD., a major International Producer and Distributor of theatrical and television product, have a vacancy for a P.A. in their Rights/Contracts Department.

Good opportunity for a young Business Studies graduate with some knowledge of Contract Law/Accounts/Systems. Ability to provide occasional secretarial assistance may be an advantage.

Salary negotiable. Please write, enclosing recent C.V. to:

Personnel Manager, ITC Entertainment Ltd., 45 Seymour Street, LONDON W1A 1AG

ANIMATION FILM PRODUCTION COMPANY

Require young enthusiastic person. Typing skills essential to help run busy West End Office.

Telephone Simon 01 734 3541

GABLE

Our young, exciting menswear company is looking to expand in all divisions. We are interested in enthusiastic, hard working people who are looking for a challenging career.

Sales Administrator preferably with 2 years experience in retail or wholesale

Assistant Merchandiser with a background in fashion

Designer who is menswear orientated

Telephonist/Typist to look after reception area

Please write to: Personnel Manager, Gable Clothing UK Ltd., 27 Briggs Place, Randolph St., London NW1 0TF. Tel: 01-482 5274

TRAINING SPECIALIST

Leading city on return graduate culture groups with proven training skills in an office for their professional staff. Training knowledge of PCs (including Lotus 123), experience of information systems or the computer industry and willingness to learn essential.

Middleton Jeffers

RECRUITMENT LIMITED 01-377 5777

ENGLAND NO. 1 IM D.O.B. EXPORT

Shooting and Hunting. The most popular and best selling book in the world. Now available in paperback. 18, Great Marlborough Street, LONDON W1V 2DX.

Hans Jacoby, 18, Great Marlborough Street, LONDON W1V 2DX.

FULHAM ESTATE AGENTS

Require trainee negotiator in profit office some sales experience preferred, salary + commission, car allowance.

Telephone Rutter and Rutter 01 731 3636.

PA/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Required by busy publishing company MUST be able to work under pressure shorthand audio and WP skills an advantage. Top salary paid to right applicant.

Please contact Mr. N. Castle on 01 538 0948

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECRUITMENT AGENCY West End

Require bright motivated young consultant with background or knowledge of professional colour Labs to join young team of Consultants

Phone Neil Brown on: 01-439 1821

MEDICAL SALES £14,250 basic + bonus

Our well established medical division has currently 75 new positions in pharmaceutical/medical sales companies. Looking for experienced sales people with a proven track record in selling pharmaceuticals and medical equipment and disposables. Selling in the pharmaceutical industry is a very challenging and rewarding job. Consider a move? 1 place available with the professionals and let us place you. Call Terry Crystal on 01-531 8275 (24 hours, AMA rec comm)

SUPERCHROME

One of London's most prestigious photographic laboratories, Superchrome, is looking for a sales person to help us continue our rapid growth. The applicant will not be exclusively field selling accounts but should know the industry well.

In return for your efforts you will receive an attractive package with the added bonus of working in a young trendy environment. Please write to: Craig Bowcher, 129-131 Cleveland Street, London W1. Tel: 01-526 5267/7775

Continued on next page

CREATIVE & MEDIA COMMUNIQUE

BBC APPOINTMENTS

BBC North East JOURNALIST (One year contract) Radio Cleveland & Radio Newcastle

Are you a self-starter, with the ability to liaise closely and contribute to the output of both Radio Cleveland and Radio Newcastle?

You'll be working primarily on news and current affairs, with a base in Durham but covering the surrounding area. The duties mainly consist of providing live and recorded items for news bulletins and news magazine programmes, but you may also be required to compile and present topical sequence programmes and features reflecting aspects of local life, for inclusion in the general programme output. There will be frequent evening and weekend work, including some public relations.

You must have proven journalistic experience at sub-editor or reporter level, a good microphone voice and be able to work under pressure as part of a small, integrated team. You'll need the ability to operate technical equipment. A current driving licence is essential and you must be prepared to live close to the base in Durham.

Knowledge of the Stations' editorial area and audience, along with broadcasting experience, would be an advantage.

Salary £10,412 - £14,725*

(Ref. 3698/T)

Radio Cornwall Truro

PRODUCER

Experienced ambitious journalists are needed at Radio Cornwall, one of Britain's most consistently popular local radio stations. You will need to be enthusiastic, keen on hard work and expect to cover such stories as the arrival of a ship laden with dynamite, the taking hostage, at gun point, of an entire district council committee, and the collapse of the 2000 year old tin industry.

You will need a sound journalistic background, with experience to sub-editor level, a good microphone voice and the ability to operate technical equipment. You will initiate your own stories, produce and present news bulletins and our all-speech sequence afternoon news and current affairs programme. You will also be expected to produce the breakfast show regularly. News gathering is a priority - you must therefore enjoy going out with a uher as well as taking overall responsibility for programmes.

Salary £10,412 - £14,725*

(Ref. 3696/T)

REPORTER (One year contract)

Ideally you will have a sound journalistic grounding in newspapers. A good microphone voice and current driving licence are essential, as is the ability to work under pressure as part of a small, integrated team to uphold the high news-gathering standards of Radio Cornwall.

Salary £8,954 - £11,110*

(Ref. 3697/T)

We are an equal opportunities employer

Salaries currently under review.

Relocation expenses considered for permanent posts.

*Plus an allowance of £1,020 p.a.

*Plus an allowance of £597 p.a.

Contact us immediately for application form (quote appropriate ref. and enclose a.s.e.) BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-827 5795.

Completed application forms should be returned by Monday, 22nd June 1987.

MEDIA SALES

By now many 1987 graduates will have a clear-cut idea of where they're going career-wise. But many won't. Whatever their position, how many will have looked seriously at media sales? And yet, this often unsearched avenue, represents one of the major growth areas in graduate recruitment. The annual summer recruitment fairs, held at a number of universities, are geared both towards serious selection of interested students as well as more general discussion with people still unsure of where they want their careers to lead them. As a company, our policy of recruiting new graduates has been underlined by our attendance at the summer fairs and our interest in meeting as full a range of graduates as possible.

Who are we and what is our business? Throughout the '80s, VNU Business Publications, Britain's leading publishers of computer, business and financial titles, has consistently recruited high calibre graduates to be trained in-house and developed towards successful careers as advertising sales executives. Selling advertising space is, however, no soft option. It demands 110% in terms of personal qualities of drive, resilience, the ability for clear thinking and above all for articulate communication.

Initial training concentrates on developing telephone sales technique, to enable new graduates to quickly assume responsibility for their own clients. This is rapidly followed-up with training in face-to-face presentation skills and participation in major exhibitions.

For those with flair, ambitions are quickly realised. The number of graduates of recent years now directly contributing to the Company's publishing and sales management is testament to the success of our policy of internal promotion.

As an advertising sales executive, in your first year you may expect to attain an earnings package of £11,000-12,000, which will be made up of a basic salary of £8,000 plus commission.

Have we what you appetite? Then why not pay us a visit at any one of the following fairs:

| | |
|------------|----------|
| BRADFORD | 17 JUNE |
| READING | 18 JUNE |
| BIRMINGHAM | 23 JUNE |
| MANCHESTER | 24 JUNE |
| NOTTINGHAM | 25 JUNE |
| LONDON | 1,2 JULY |

If you are unable to attend one of the fairs please send your details to: The Personnel Manager, VNU BUSINESS PUBLICATIONS, VNU HOUSE, 32-34 BROADWICK STREET, LONDON W1A 2HG. Tel. 01-439 4242.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT SALES EXECUTIVES

Tired of commuting, seeking more responsibility, greater appreciation and remuneration! This must be the opportunity you have been looking for.....

Maclaren Publishers part of the highly successful, fast expanding EMAP Group are seeking experienced telephone sales people to join their Classified Advertising Department, based in Croydon, Surrey.

You should be able to demonstrate a determined, dynamic approach to space sales in a fast moving environment. In return we will offer you an exceptional salary package, 5 weeks holiday, sales training, LV's, BUPA and Employee Share Option Scheme.

If you are between 19-32, are confident in your capacity to deal with business people at all levels and enjoy working consistently hard under pressure - where results are well rewarded, you could be the person we are looking for.

Contact: Diana Simmons
Classified Sales Manager
Maclaren House
Scarbrough Road
Croydon
CR9 1QH

MACLAREN PUBLISHERS LIMITED
A member of the EMAP Maclaren Communications Group.

PUBLISHING

TRAINEES
A leading national newspaper group, a TV contractor plus two top London publishers of business magazines require dynamic, ambitious, creative advertising sales executives, preferably of graduate standard. These positions are challenging and stimulating and offer excellent training and management prospects. Applications from 1987 graduates welcome.

EXPERIENCED AD PEOPLE

1. Top trade publication for the film industry requires Spanish or Japanese speakers with or without ad sales experience. Salary neg.
2. Classified sales executive for a leading group of newspapers in all major metropolitan areas. £9 - 10,000 plus comm. features etc.

For the above positions and many more call Rachel

Touman or Fiona Quinn between 9 am - 6 pm.
(RSC CONS.)
CARRERAS LATHANE ASSOCIATES
01-439 9634

CLASS OF '87

Let Graduate Appointments help you start a Media Sales Career.

We've been working with London's top publishing houses for over 20 years. All offer excellent training career progression and good salaries. (£8 - £11K).

We need to hear now from graduates who have the potential to promote a range of magazine titles from consumer, to business and computing, to finance.

If you have the communication skills, power of argument and ambition to excel in this young, high pressure environment, ring Kate White or Jenny Edgecombe for immediate interview.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

TOP FLIGHT TELESales MANAGER

Established Advertising Company.
Due to expansion we require a Telesales Manager with a view to leading a new W/Week London office. Applicants should be confident & highly motivated people to direct our in-house operations. Duties include supervision & training of existing & new personnel to achieve target performance. This is an excellent opportunity for the right applicant with commensurate high financial rewards and future career prospects. For an immediate interview telephone Mr. Oakes on 631 3275.

PUBLIC RELATIONS APPOINTMENTS

FMCG IN-HOUSE

Within this well-known organisation you will be required to produce a wide range of food products to both the consumer and trade markets. This is a fast-paced environment, with a high turnover of stock and a high level of customer service. You will be responsible for developing and maintaining a strong relationship with the trade and consumer press, and for looking after the company's public image.

For more information, contact us at 01-439 4242.

PROFESSIONAL PR

An excellent opportunity for a Public Relations executive has arisen with a well-established Design Consultancy. With this role, you will be responsible for developing and maintaining a strong relationship with the trade and consumer press, and for looking after the company's public image.

For more information, contact us at 01-439 4242.

GRADUATE OPENINGS

If you are a graduate with a degree in a relevant subject, we have a number of exciting opportunities for you. These include positions in sales, marketing, and public relations. We offer a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package.

For more information, contact us at 01-439 4242.

PUBLICITY MANAGER

Only rarely do we get the chance to advertise such a wide range of products. This is a fast-paced environment, with a high turnover of stock and a high level of customer service. You will be responsible for developing and maintaining a strong relationship with the trade and consumer press, and for looking after the company's public image.

For more information, contact us at 01-439 4242.

Marketforce APPOINTMENTS

PR SPECIALISTS

16 Dover Street, London W1X 3PB Telephone 01-408 1616

ADVERTISING SALES PERSON Mind Your Own Business

Mind Your Own Business an established monthly business magazine is looking for a young go-getter to sell advertising space to all levels of management in both companies and their advertising agencies. Previous experience not essential as the successful candidate may already be selling in the office equipment, finance or retail markets. Full training will be provided to enable the person to develop a working knowledge of the various markets addressed by the magazine. If you have the ability to cope with the pace of a fast moving market, and are able to contribute and develop your own ideas then we can provide an attractive remuneration package, including a car. Telephone Mike Brown on 01-771 3614.

For office equipment and management services

MILDMAY MISSION HOSPITAL

We are developing a new role as a small independent hospital serving the local community. It was closed down by NHS in 1982 and reopened in 1983 as a charity run by a Board of Governors. It has recently received substantial backing for new ventures.

We urgently need a PUBLICITY MANAGER and PUBLICITY ASSISTANT.

Come and join our team of committed Christians. We are looking for someone with:

- good verbal and written communication skills
- creative flair and initiative
- experience in publicity and fund-raising work
- management skills

For further information and application form contact:

Hilary Ayres, Mildmay Mission Hospital, Hackney Road, London, E2

Tel. No. 01-738 2331 ext. 107.

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June 26-30, 1987

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Aged 20-30, ideally with some sales experience, but not essential, as thorough training is given at all levels. Applicants must be motivated and have the desire to succeed. Attractive earnings package leading to Sales Executive status after three months' qualifying period.

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You must be aged 25-40, mature, motivated with a high degree of perception and pleasing personality. £1,000 p.m. qualified retainer (incl. car allowance) plus high rate of commission, with personal incentives commensurate with experience. After an eight-month qualifying period opportunities are available to transfer to offices in U.S.A., Canada and Australia.

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PLEASE TELEPHONE
01-446 6629/6620

SKY MAGAZINE DEPUTY ART EDITOR

News International-Hachette's successful new fortnightly guide to movies, music and fashion is looking for a Deputy Art Editor, to help create the most exciting magazine in its field.

As well as being familiar with all aspects of magazine design, he or she should be capable of co-ordinating an art department producing top quality work within the confines of a demanding daily schedule.

Applicants, who ideally will not be over 35, should send a full c.v. to: Jonathan Bulstrode-Whitlocke, Art Editor, SKY Magazine, Third Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PE.

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

for 21st Century Christian
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Must be experienced
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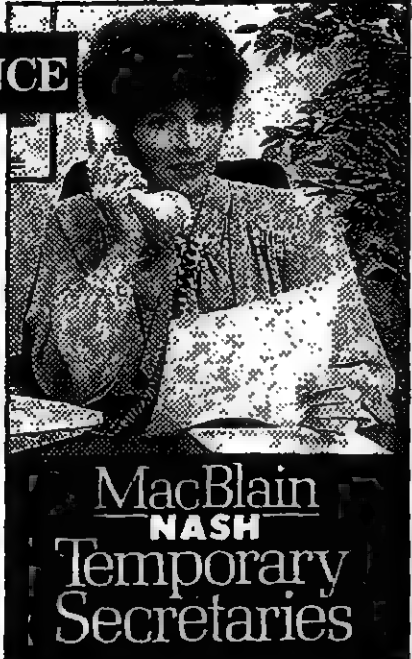
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Top Salary

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Our Chairman, Dick Giordano, is a leading figure in the international business world, he travels extensively and has a busy schedule to maintain. He requires a high calibre person to provide him with comprehensive support in handling his day to day business affairs and secretarial duties. In his absence certain office matters will need to be progressed.

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Start as a PA in this famous international company and, within a year you could be a strategic planning/projects assistant and have a secretary of your own. Numeracy and the ability to use your initiative are essential. Typing 50 wpm + WP experience.

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A small but fantastically busy Public Relations Team is seeking a PA/Secretary to take responsibility for the efficient running of the department.

The situation requires the ability to create order, be versatile and enjoy total involvement in this pressured but interesting environment. The successful applicant will have worked at Director level, be educated to 'A' level standard and have a cheerful unfatigable outgoing personality. Males 120 wpm, memory typewriter, audio.

Age 25-40.
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AGE 21 - 27

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One of our business in an English family man who worked abroad, the other a young American high level who has recently moved to London from LA. They work on urgent assignments lasting 2-6 weeks and are both highly motivated and professional.

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Please apply to: Angela Mortimer, West End Office 01-625 9686

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City

£11,000 - £14,000

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THE PEPPER HARROW FOUNDATION

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Asea Trading (UK) Ltd is a fast growing trading company which is a part of the Asea Group of Sweden - one of the worlds top ten electrical companies.

The President requires a PA/Secretary with initiative, a high degree of organisational and communication skills and the willingness to work flexible hours under pressure.

The work is varied and interesting and this position is a superb opportunity to become involved with the President in the running of the company. Applicants should have considerable experience at a senior level and be a graduate or educated to at least 'A' level standard. Excellent PA/Secretarial skills are required, including shorthand and word processing. Knowledge of Swedish is preferred.

Interested applicants, to whom an excellent salary will be offered should apply with a detailed CV to:

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To provide this quality service you'll need a strong interest in the law enabling you to get the most out of the office and the initiative, dealing with clients and keeping the office running smoothly.

This is a very real opportunity for someone with a keen eye for detail and a challenge and is prepared to take on as much of their work as they can give them. Age 25/40 Salary: £12,000

CITY OFFICE
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Miss Elaine Fryer
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Closing Date: 24 June 1987.

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Age: 28-40 Skills: 100/60

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5 GARRICK STREET
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You will be a key member of a small, highly professional team. You will need to be outgoing, self-motivated and capable of working under considerable pressure. You will take responsibility for:

- the smooth running of the European Headquarters in Kensington
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- extensive travel arrangements
- frequent contact with U.S. head office, European subsidiaries and distributors.

110 wpm+ shorthand, 85 wpm typing.

Salary circa £11,000

Please apply in confidence with your CV to:

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Prestigious publishing house in Covent Garden requires a first-class senior secretary to provide comprehensive back-up to their busy Managing Director. Varied duties include arranging meetings and diaries, dealing with enquiries and undertaking general correspondence, often of a highly confidential nature. Excellent presentation and good educational background combined with solid secretarial experience and good skills (80/60/audiotyping) essential. Publishing experience an advantage. Age 25-35. Please call 434 4512.

Crone Corkill

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We need an efficient, competent and presentable person to run our small management consulting office in Victoria. Responsibilities include answering the phone, wordprocessing letters and reports, receiving visitors, organising meetings and travel and generally keeping the office functioning.

You must be able to cope with periods of frantic activity, as well as being alone in the office with nothing urgent to do. The office is non-smoking.

Salary negotiable around £10,000.

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PA to Partner

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The successful candidate will be involved in a wide range of interesting duties, plus full secretarial responsibilities where experience with PCs and excellent organisation skills are necessary.

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CAREY STREET

If only we'd had a secretary from

Senior Secretaries

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

BOARD LEVEL PA
£13,000

The deputy chairman of a major British company seeks a senior executive secretary. You will act as his 'right hand' and will organise both his business and personal affairs. Accompanied by working at director level, you will act with the utmost discretion at all times. 100/50 skills required. Good benefits package offered.

Please telephone 01 240 3551

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants
2 Bow Lane London EC4DRESSED TO KILL
£13,000

This exclusive clothing manufacturer needs a bright secretary/administrator to give full support to a busy executive. Be involved in a myriad of duties and help organise the office. An interest in antiques would also be useful. Real career prospects. 100/55 skills and WP experience needed. Age 25+.

Please telephone 01 240 3531

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants
16 Grosvenor Street London W1AN ADMIN ROLE
to £12,500

Join this very successful firm of property developers as secretary/administrator to a partner. You'll be in charge of office systems and will enjoy extensive responsibility and liaison with clients. You should be a good organiser with a senior level background and 55 wpm typing ability.

Please telephone 01 240 3511

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants
2-3 Bedford Street London WC2CAREER MOVE
£11,000

A major US company. You will provide full administrative back-up to the staff administrator and handle PR matters as well as doing research. A career-minded and ambitious secretary can expect to progress to an administrative position. An 'A' level education and 90/50 skills with WP experience is required.

Please telephone 01 240 3551

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants
2 Bow Lane London EC4REACH FOR THE SKY
to £11,000

Join this small successful building company as a 2nd jobber and give full PA support to their charming director. Lots of variety and your own projects to handle. A sense of humour needed as well as 90/60 skills and WP experience. Lushouse W1 office. Age 25+.

Please telephone 01 240 3531

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants
18 Grosvenor Street London W1

Zarak Hay Associates Ltd

SPORTS PROMOTION £8,000
Enjoy real involvement with this young fun Company who organise sporting events all over the Country. Meet famous names from the professional circuits, deal with press and public enquiries and provide secretarial back up. 80 wpm Shorthand and 50 wpm Typing needed.

POSTER ADVERTISING £29,000
This is a brand new job which can be developed to a true career position. Assist a team developing clients nationwide, set up your own systems, take responsibility for all administration and general office organisation. 55wpm typing needed.

BASED AT SLOANE SQUARE £8,500
Beautiful surroundings await you at this extremely successful PR Company. Your lively outgoing personality is as important as your good typing to get involvement. Arrange Press Conferences, liaise with clients and deal with all presentation material. 55 wpm audio typing needed.

Please call KAREN BETANCOURT/ANN GROVER/
CELIA AHLQUIST for further details.

01-588 6674

FILM BUSINESS
£9,500

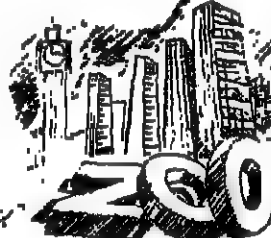
... meaning the business side of the film industry rather than creative.

This is a world famous west end based company with a friendly environment and a truly nice boss to work for.

Pressure is part of the business, so you'll need to be unflappable and quick.

Ideal age 20's, skills 80/60.

Ring ZOO Consultants on 439 6021.



Upmarket Temping
to £13,000

This week, join an exclusive and upwardly-mobile elite. The pick of London's prestige jobs. Rewards that pay full recognition to excellence. And something more. Longer term career growth. Financially our pay structure reflects your development. So too our training unit, where without charge or obligation you can bring yourself up-to-date on the latest in WP. Sound secretarial skills? Age 25-35? Call today, 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES
Recruitment Consultants

SECRETARY FOR AMERICAN LAWYERS MAYFAIR
C. £12,500 plus benefits

We are looking for an experienced secretary, aged 25+, with excellent skills, including shorthand and W/P (BPM preferred). Team spirit essential for our small office. Any overtime required is well remunerated.

Please telephone Mandy Danna or Chris Nicks on 01 491 7236 (No Agencies)

Judy Farquharson Limited
47 New Bond Street, London, W1Y 9HA.
01 493 8534

£20,000

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO CHAIRMAN OF INTERNATIONAL COMPANY

Incredible secretarial and presentation skills with senior administrative experience. Social grace and ability to deal with VIPs, and educated to 'A' level standard. Totally dedicated and committed to a career which rewards hard work and long hours. Ring Judy Farquharson or Jane Seddon.

Good temporary secretaries with 100/60 and WP - Contact Deborah Francis.

JFL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

HIGH POWERED SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Required for Managing Director, able to take charge of lively Head Office of Property and Building Company in Chelsea. Interesting and varied work. Excellent qualifications and references essential. Salary £21,000.

Write with full details to:
Romulus Construction Ltd,
Lodge House, Beaufort Street,
London SW3 5AJ.

CHAIRMAN'S PA to £12,000

Lots of VIP contact as PA (25+) to the young dynamic Chairman of this international firm of Architects in W1. Enjoy a busy hectic day. Good skills and organising ability. Call Shau on 498-1631.

Middleton Jeffers
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

PA/SEC FOR DESIGN CONSULTANCY

Young, busy professional Graphic Design consultancy based in W1 requires a PA/secretary for the two female Directors. Initiative, organisational skills and enthusiasm essential. Preferably someone who has worked in creative field before. 2nd jobber/non-smoker/salary neg.

Please ring Pina Lee on 01-631 3879 before 5pm today
NO AGENCIES

IMMEDIATE PERSONNEL

EXECUTIVE PA TO INTERNATIONAL
£13,000

An executive PA to the International Director of this international investment organisation. You will be expected to handle senior-level clients along with a large amount of confidential business on your behalf. Excellent salary and benefits package in this exciting and enjoyable office environment. The successful candidate will be a dynamic, confident, energetic and highly motivated individual with excellent shorthand and typing skills and up to date on the latest in WP. Sound secretarial skills? Age 25-35? Call today, 01-493 5787.

THE PERSONNEL PEOPLE

CHILMSFORD £12,000

This is a rare opportunity to create the role of Personal Assistant to the energetic founder of this small successful business which covers the Country. Able to function within a team and with good secretarial skills this job will be relaxed by an all-rounder seeking maximum challenge and career satisfaction.

SHILKA CHILMSFORD RECRUITMENT
01-385 9075

PA/SECRETARY

required by young Chairman/MD of rapidly expanding magazine printers based near Heathrow airport. Good secretarial skills including shorthand and W/P/PC experience essential. An easy going, ambitious nature is necessary to handle this position which can be hectic at times.

Salary £11,000.

Please write or telephone Mr T Staples, Bourne Office Ltd, 2 The Ridgeway, Beckenham, SE18 9ER

GERMAN/ENGLISH £15,000 package

Marvellous opportunity for a bilingual PA to use both German and English shorthand skills (essential) and experience working for the General Manager in this prestigious City based German bank. Diversified administrative and secretarial responsibilities.

430 1561/2652, Dulcie Simpson

KNIGHTSBRIDGE £9,000

Property company require young, smart, energetic receptionist for hectic office. Good telephone manner and typing essential. WP preferred.

Tel 01 581 5351

PA/SECRETARY c£10,000 KNIGHTSBRIDGE

A young, self-confident PA/Secretary is sought by this firm of varied clients including telephone and travel arrangements, using IBM Displaywrite WP (with travel). Aged 22+.

Ring Linda Mitchell 439 9071 Kingston Personnel

perrier

SECRETARY TO MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Busy and friendly offices in Belgravia require a secretary with high level word processing and administrative skills.

An attractive salary for the right candidate.

Please apply in writing to:
Sara Sharp
Perrier (UK) Limited
6 Lyons Place
LONDON SW1W 0JR

KEYSTONE EMPLOYMENT
"PLACING PEOPLE FIRST" TEMPORARY

We have immediate long/short term booking for:
AES OPS (S) With or without sh. Start 15th June, 5 wk. bookings. Call Sonia 283 5914 £8.00ph
WP OPS (any machine). For expanding W/End Co. Call Tina 434 1501 £7.50ph
COPY TYPISTS 45 wpm long/short term. North/South West London. Call Andrea 283 5914 £10.00ph
IBM DISPLAY OPS. Start asap for major City Co. Call Debbie 506 4785 £7.50ph
CLKS (S). Interest in computers 'O' level ed. View to perm. Call Christine 283 5914 £4.50ph
We also urgently seek clerical/admin staff. Long/short term, all areas. Call Barbara or Amanda on 827 0444.

Open Saturday 10-12. Ring Keystone House 837 6444 For Appl.

PA/SHORTHAND ADMINISTRATOR
Design Company £12,000

AUDIO SECRETARY
With WANG WP experience for Financial Director

YOUNG OFFICE MANAGER
With sales experience for computer software company

EXPORT DOCUMENTATION CLERK
For fast growing computer company £9,000+
TELEPHONE BARBARA PHILLIPS
01 834 1134
Alfred Marks Recruitment Consultants
31A Marks Street, Covent Garden, WC2E 8PA

Ask ALFRED MARKS

ADMINISTRATION/PA
£8,000-£10,000 Negotiable
Depending on Age and Experience

Excellent opportunities in expanding textile company situated in the West End.

Lively office assisting two Directors with varied responsibilities, including client liaison. Good organisational skills needed. Initiative and ability to relate with people at all levels.

We require 80/50, WP (training will be given).

Please send CV to Mrs R Adams, Peter Adams Agencies, Golden House, 28 Great Pulteney Street, London, W1R 3DD

AFTER HOURS

We look forward to seeing you in our office tonight for an informal chat about the kind of job you're really looking for. Please drop in from 5.30 onwards or make an appointment by calling 01 240 3531.

Elizabeth Hunt
Recruitment Consultants
18 Grosvenor Street London W1

BILINGUAL AND OTHERS...

BILINGUAL SALES ADMIN ASST (London) with fluent French to handle imports from France, customer liaison, own typing, translations etc. Training given - college leave possible. £9-10,000.

BILINGUAL SECRETARY/PA (Paris) for Senior Partner (young) of leading international Law Firm. Fluent French, good English SH - French SH useful. PA - confidential work. Ideally 1-2 years exp.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/PA (Horseshoe) for MD & Personnel Director, Europe. Opportunity to train in Personnel, German useful. £10-12,000.

TOP EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/PA (West End) quiet efficiency + experience required to 'back up' travelling MD, WP + SH + admin. Probably not for the under 30's. Excellent offer. £14,000+.

For further details and interview please call SHEILA BURGESS
INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL, COMMISSIONER
The Power House, Abbe Place, London SW2 2EZ

PA ACTON c£12,000

True PA role assisting a busy MD. Ideally someone with either Shorthand or typist. Expert experience and good typing. Strong personality & lots of initiative essential. Good organisational skills. Reader who wants to work close to Tottenham Green tube or Park Lane. Call Mary on 498-1631.

Middleton Jeffers
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY

Required for small busy West End firm of chartered surveyors and property managers situated close to Bond St tube in an attractive period building. Interesting and varied work requiring good typing skills and friendly telephone manner.

Salary negotiable at around £9,000 pa. 4 weeks holiday, hours 9.15 to 5.15.

Apply Philip Andrews,
2 Duke Street, Manchester Square,
London W1M 5AA
or telephone John Andrews 01 486 5991.

PA/SECRETARY c£10,000

A young, self-confident PA/Secretary is sought by this firm of varied clients including telephone and travel arrangements, using IBM Displaywrite WP (with travel). Aged 22+.

Ring Linda Mitchell 439 9071 Kingston Personnel

£12,000 - £15,000

LATE NIGHT OPENING: We are staying open late today and tomorrow as we realise it is difficult for senior level PA/secretaries to get away during the day.

We have an excellent range of current vacancies - in the City and the West End - for candidates with an impressive track record, a minimum of 2 'A' levels and excellent secretarial skills (including shorthand and wordprocessing experience). The preferred age range in most cases is 25-35.

If you wish to speak to us first, then you can reach us on 01-629 7262; otherwise you are welcome to visit our offices at any time up to 7.30 pm today and tomorrow.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCE STREET, W1. 01-629 7262

LONG TERM TEMP

This 6 month assignment means guaranteed work for the rest of 1987. With overtime pay, you will be earning c£14,000 p.a. You'll need good skills (90/55/WANG/WP) - and lots of energy! Call Karen Sherman today on 01 629 7262.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCE STREET, W1. 01-629 7262

PA/SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR SLOUGH

Following reluctant departure of valued employee, long established and fast growing computer company requires first class PA/Secretary for demanding MD.

Organisational ability, drive and complete confidentiality are essential requirements, together with ability to supervise and liaise at all levels. Candidates will be aged at least 30 with a minimum of 4 years experience at this level and possess exceptional shorthand/typing speeds. Excellent salary offered in return for satisfaction of this specification.

Please send full CV with covering handwritten letter to:
Mrs Morag A Wilson,
ANDERSON JACOBSON LIMITED,
752 Deal Avenue,
Slough,
Berkshire.
SL1 4SJ

Design/Advertising Reception £9,000

Articulate and stylish receptionist/secretary with bags of initiative to work for rapidly expanding West End company handling a busy switchboard, telex and WP - typing 45wpm essential, meeting and greeting clients, organising couriers and composing your own correspondence. The prospects are excellent. Call 01-493 5787.

GORDON-YATES
Recruitment Consultants

WILL YOU WORK ON MONDAY?

My wife, you're a temporary booking but not sure of working next week, or maybe you need work now. Whatever the case Fiona Bugh, Temporary Controller for Elizabeth Hunt, will ensure you're top busy. Good secretarial skills essential and we'll even train you to use the WP. Excellent rates and lovely bonus. Evening appointments welcome.

Please telephone 01-240 3511

Elizabeth Hunt
Recruitment Consultants
2-3 Bedford Street London WC2

YOUNG AUDIO SECRETARY

for financial services company to organise four entrepreneurs.

WP experience essential. Multitask software preferred. Confident manner, enthusiasm and initiative vital.

Please send CV to:
Helen Smith
49 Park Mall
London
SW1V 5JG
£ Neg ass
(No Agencies)

HELP! I need to recruit an efficient, enthusiastic personal assistant for charming Architect/Designer/Managing Director of expanding conservatory company in Battersea, who needs lots of help organising his very busy life. Demanding role but with lots of variety and fun. Some typing and shorthand required but your organisational skills and flexibility even more important. Certainly set a boring 9 to 5 job! Salary £10,000 neg. Car driver essential. Tel: Kate James on 01 350 1581. (No Agencies)

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST EXECUTIVE SEARCH c£8,500

To join a close-knit team in attractive City business office.

We need fast audio typing, WP experience, a good telephone manner and initiative.

We are young, friendly and we are looking for an equally enthusiastic, do call me, Pamela Payne, and I'll tell you about us and the job.

Tel: 469 2229

THE GRADUATE £13,000 neg

Top PA, 25-40, preferably a graduate to run the office for the MD of a Film Production Financing Company in St. James'. SH + WP skills.

CHALFONT CHALLENGE £12,000

Ambitious Office Manager, 26+, to set up admin systems for a fast expanding hi-tech company in Bucks. No SH, minimal typing but total commitment.

City 577 8686

APSLEY, HERTS £11-£12,000

Two PAs to work for the top management team of a major plc. Flexible all-rounders with good SH and WP skills to work together in an up-market environment.

SECRETARIES PLUS

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE c£15,000

This small but extremely successful Investment Company need a Senior PA/Secretary to assist their Director. Deal with clients face to face and on the telephone. Handle office administration and run the office in your Boss's absence. 100 wpm Shorthand and 80 wpm Typing needed with 'A' level education.

FLUENT GERMAN CAREER IN KENSINGTON £10,500

No shorthand needed for this involving role as PA to a Strategic Planning Manager at this well-known financial institution. Use your initiative to the full and move out of the secretarial role in about one years time. Degree education, fluent German and 60 wpm typing needed.

For further details on the above please contact:
KAREN BETANCOURT/ANN GROVER/CELIA AHLQUIST

01-588 6674

PA TO DIRECTOR

Our client, a well-established firm of stockbrokers backed by an internationally respected banking group, is seeking a PA/Secretary to assist their Head of Equity Sales in the running of his fast-moving department. He is young, well-educated, and very much a rising star in the organisation. The PA/Secretary should be well-presented, bright and articulate and capable of dealing tactfully with a range of people and situations. The work is pressurised and often confidential but there will be a junior secretary to relieve you of much of the routine secretarial work so that you can concentrate on more administrative duties.

Skills 90/60

Age limit 26-35

Benefits include: immediate mortgage subsidy, generous bonus and excellent holiday allowance.

Please telephone 01-439 6477

MacBlain Nash CITY Recruitment Consultants

LEISURE PROPERTY SALES ADMINISTRATION

We require an experienced person to join our dedicated team based in currently seeking vivacious involving personal contact with our clients. Confidential telephone manner and ability to handle own correspondence. Typing skills needed, but this not a secretarial position. Written applications with CV's in confidence to:

Managing Director
Elliott Property & Leisure Group
31 St George Street
Hanover Square, W1R 9FA.

PUBLISHING ENTREPRENEUR £12,000+

A vibrant, 'back-biting', innovative publishing company with a vision of success is looking for a PA/Secretary to handle the day-to-day running of the company. The successful candidate will be a dynamic, confident, energetic and highly motivated individual with excellent shorthand and typing skills and up to date on the latest in WP. Sound secretarial skills? Age 25-35? Call today, 01-493 5787.

Jane Graham
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

LIKE LEGAL? £11,500 + bonuses

You are mid 20's+ with good shorthand or audio skills for the partner of this City firm close to Liverpool St.

A QUICK START! £12-£13,000

You could temp into this permanent job assisting the 2 MD's of a American Stockbrokers in fabulous Mews offices in South Ken. Financial background ideal + SH and WP.

OFFICE MANAGER £11,000+

Combine running the office with the private secretarial role for a small and friendly architectural practice in Bloomsbury. Lots of managing and organising - audio + bookkeeping skills please.

West End 439 7865

SECRETARIES PLUS

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Jane Graham
RECRUITMENT LIMITED



LTA upsets plans for drugs tests at Wimbledon

By John Goodbody

Players at this year's Wimbledon championships are highly unlikely to be tested for drugs because of a conflict between the Lawn Tennis Association and the Men's International Professional Tennis Council.

A letter from the LTA, declaring its annoyance about drugs-testing procedures at last year's Wimbledon, has upset the MIPTC and led to the probable absence of any controls.

In 1986, testing was introduced for the first time on 175 male players and 30 umpires, but the results and the identity of anyone found positive were kept secret by the MIPTC on condition the individual underwent psychiatric treatment.

This decision led to Scotland Yard accusing Wimbledon of a potential drugs cover-up, because the testing would include illegal drugs such as cocaine and heroin. Dick Tracey, the Minister for Sport, also called for a random testing programme at future championships for both men and women, as is commonplace in other sports.

John James, the Secretary of the LTA, has written to the MIPTC stating that he hoped future controls would follow the code of other Olympic sports, now that tennis is part of the programme of the Games. This would include releasing names and a graded system of penalties.

James told *The Times* that his letter to Marshall Happer, the executive director of the MIPTC, did express "a certain amount of displeasure" at what happened last year.

Other tennis reports and results on page 55

Lipton's event in February and, although there is no need for Wimbledon to be the second, the LTA's resolute attitude is deterring the MIPTC from organizing testing at the world's most famous tennis event.

The LTA has now set up its own comprehensive drugs-testing for domestic events. It has also proposed to the International Tennis Federation, the world governing body, that it should adopt the drugs-testing procedures of the International Olympic Committee for major events. This will be discussed at next month's ITF meeting in Abidjan.

James said: "We feel that

this is the way the sport should go. But I think it will be a long time before full random drug-testing is carried out at Wimbledon."

Last year the MIPTC carried out the tests at Wimbledon as one of its selected championships in 1986, but only for "recreational" drugs and not for those which can improve performance, as is customary in other Olympic sports. However, amphetamines and cocaine, both social drugs, can aid a player's alertness and concentration.

Mike Davies, then Chairman of the MIPTC, said last year that testing was being carried out because the Council wanted to disprove any rumours of recreational drug-taking in top-class tennis. The urine samples at last year's Wimbledon were analysed at New York State University and not at King's College, Chelsea, an IOC-accredited laboratory, which was originally set up by Professor Arnold Beckett, the medical adviser to the International Tennis Federation.

The Council has announced that a player would only be suspended if he refused to be tested or treated or if he were positive on three different occasions.

The MIPTC, which is based in New York, has been given legal advice that its policy of self-policing is exceptional in American sport and the Council is clearly concerned that if it suspended a player for taking a social drug then that player could sue the MIPTC for restraint of trade in the United States courts.

McEnroe gives Scotland a miss to steel his resolve

By Richard Evans

John McEnroe has pulled out of the Scottish Championships in Edinburgh but still intends to play at Wimbledon. Speaking from New York yesterday, McEnroe said: "Physically I am not right yet. I tried practising on the grass at Forest Hills yesterday but my legs are still giving me a lot of trouble."

After a few minutes, it became obvious that McEnroe was also far from being mentally prepared to put himself back on a public stage with all the attendant pressures of media hype. He still talks of the Dusseldorf incident - in which he walked off court in the final against Miloslav Mečíř - as a major setback and is deeply troubled by the consequences.

"I made a mistake," he admitted. "I was hurting physically but given a couple of

minutes to think about it, I wouldn't have left the court. But I have got to put that behind me and I only wish Marshall Happer would conclude his investigation so I could focus on Wimbledon. At the moment I am finding that hard to do."

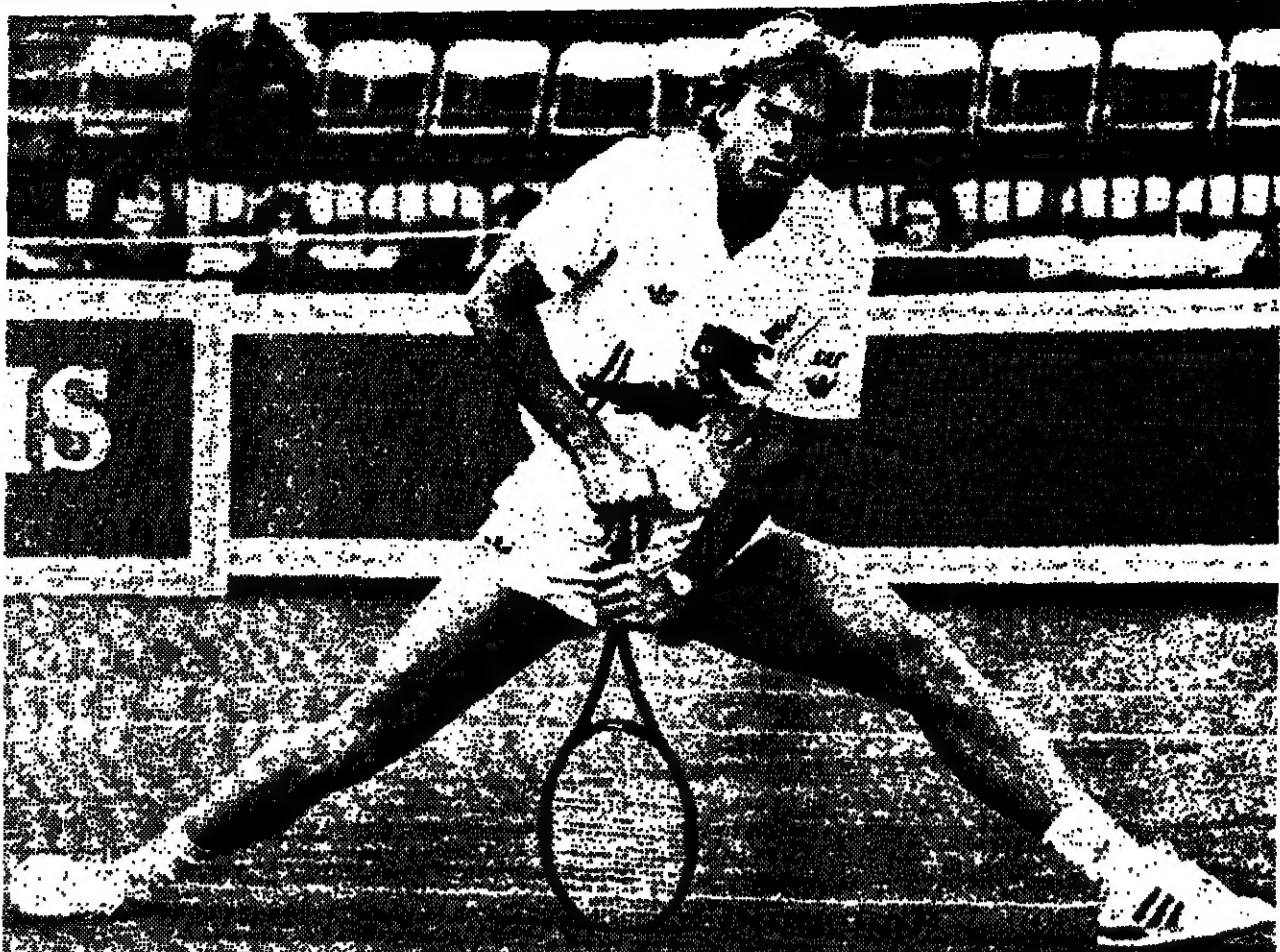
Not for the first time in recent weeks, McEnroe has been asking himself whether the pressure he keeps creating for himself is worth it. "I am getting beaten down by it all," he admitted. "I keep wondering whether I really need it because the pressures on my family are becoming intolerable. I know I bring a lot of it on myself but I am also unlucky in many ways. I just never seem to get a break."

At the moment, McEnroe is intending to fulfil a commitment he has made to the Association of Tennis Professionals president, Matt Doyle, the Irish Davis Cup player, to play in a charity exhibition for hunger in Dublin early next week.

"I am sorry about Scotland but I am sure Leach will be happy," McEnroe said. "He nearly pulled out when he heard I had entered so now he can have the whole show to himself."

More and more, Wimbledon is looming as a make-or-break landmark in the career of its three-time champion. A good, incident-run to the semi-finals, or beyond, could help convince McEnroe that the new image he so desperately wants to create for himself is within his capability.

One more lapse, on the other hand, could persuade him to walk away from the game for good.



Surface tension: Stefan Edberg is stretched to the limit on the damp grass at the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's Club yesterday. He slipped back into gear to beat Sammy Giammalva 6-4, 6-3. Report, page 55 (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Barnes ends the Anfield wait

By Ian Ross

Liverpool completed the first stage of a multi-million-pound rebuilding programme yesterday when they finally signed John Barnes, the Watford and England winger who had audaciously gambled with his future.

And having secured Barnes for an estimated £850,000 just four days after withdrawing a long-standing offer of £900,000, Kenny Dalglish, the Anfield manager, will further underline his determination to maintain Liverpool's position as British football's most successful club by making renewed efforts to sign Peter Beardsley, the highly rated Newcastle United forward.

Within hours of completing negotiations with Barnes, Dalglish contacted United manager Willie McFaul with a straight cash bid thought to be somewhere in the region of £1.85 million.

Although McFaul has always insisted that Beardsley would not be allowed to leave St James's Park for anything less than £3 million, the Newcastle board were last night thought to be considering this latest offer.

Manchester United have also expressed interest in Beardsley but are not thought to be in a position to offer a cash-only deal and had been hoping to arrange a transfer based around player exchange.

Barnes's transfer was dramatically resurrected after he had telephoned the club following the news that Liverpool had withdrawn their offer.

"This has been going on for a long time now and I am just glad it is all over. I am delighted to be moving to Liverpool. I think that when it

was made plain that I would not be going to Europe there was only one club in my mind that I was going to sign for," Barnes said.

Dalglish said: "We are delighted to have completed the deal. I think John suffered from some speculation in the Press. John is not using Liverpool as a makeshift for any other club. After we had made our offer we agreed to leave it until the end of the season and were supposed to speak to Watford again on June 8, after they had returned from a foreign tour. We are only one day late."

Barnes, who had set his sights on playing on the continent, asked for time to consider his options, a request Liverpool, rather uncharacteristically, agreed to comply with.

But with the wealthy Italian and Spanish clubs showing precious little interest, Barnes hinting that if he had to remain in the English game he would prefer a move to a London club, Liverpool's patience finally ran out late last week when they brought their deadline for a decision forward by 72 hours.

Barnes confessed at the time that Liverpool's decision was "a shattering blow" and he contacted the Anfield hierarchy over the weekend to plead for a second chance.

That chance came yesterday when Dalglish returned from a family holiday in Spain and immediately drove South with chief executive Peter Robinson to dramatically resurrect the deal and so bring down the curtain on one of football's longest running and most curious sagas.

Contriving to avoid rain the priority

It is to be hoped that the June monsoon relents sufficiently for there to be genuine results in today's Benson and Hedges Cup semi-finals (Geoffrey Wheeler writes). No one wants the situation of players bowling at a set of stumps to decide the result if an outcome cannot be arrived at within the three days allocated.

Despite heavy rain locally in recent days Kent officials are optimistic that the match with Northamptonshire at Canterbury will start on time. Yorkshire, having joined Lancashire at the head of the county championship by winning at Harrogate yesterday, will hope that the weather is kind again for the visit of Surrey to Headingley.

Imran denies players' rift

By Alan Lee

Imran Khan, responding to reports of verbal warfare between the England and Pakistan players during the first Cornhill Test, claimed last night that relations on and off the field were the best he had ever known between the two sides.

The Pakistan captain also indicated that inflammatory remarks attributed to his deputy, Javed Miandad, in an article of dubious taste, had been investigated.

Miandad had written of his penchant for "sledding" - the verbal abuse of opponents - and named some England players who, he says, also indulge. But Imran said: "I have spoken to Javed about the article and what he was

trying to say is that if someone attacks him he will not take it lying down. Maybe it did not come across too well."

"There have been a few words said between players in this game, but no worse than normal. My players are not the type to get involved. I personally think sledding is a waste of time because no batsman at Test level should lose his head, no matter how he is spoken to."

Imran believes that relations between the teams have been strained for 10 years, since the winter when Pakistan tried to reintroduce players contracted to World Series Cricket, whereupon the touring England team threatened to go on strike. "On this tour, all that has been forgotten and

the players are very friendly."

Reflecting on the start of the rain-ravaged Test, Imran confessed: "I put my team under a lot of pressure with my decision to bowl first. It was a mistake but we have survived it and we can start again at Lord's much better equipped, with Abdul Qadir and myself in the attack."

England's injury absences both hope to be fit for Lord's. Chris Broad will play in benefit matches tomorrow and on Friday to test his cracked thumb and Graham Dilley is likely to be watched by the manager Micky Stewart when he returns to action in the Ticon Trophy at Harrogate tomorrow.

John Woodcock, page 55

French does his trade proud

Simon Barnes

This has not been much of a Test match for most people, but for me and my fellow members of the Campaign for Real Wicketkeepers, it has been a delight. Bruce French's keeping is the sort that wins matches. He is not a batsman in gauntlets who is employed to save them. He is a Real Wicketkeeper.

Goalkeepers are heroes for half the time and idiots for the rest. They are always in the glare of attention. But in high-class cricket, to put on a pair of gauntlets is to don a cloak of invisibility. A wicketkeeper is expected to catch the catches standing back and to stop the eyes of the medium pacer, he is a sweeper-upper: no one else.

Most wicketkeepers are up to this task. And so most wicketkeepers are selected by their batting. The first principle of selection is that you don't pick people for their secondary skills but for their primary one and again, particularly with wicketkeepers, and it loses cricket matches.

The problem was not helped by Alan Knott, who was both a Real Wicketkeeper and a member of improvisation with the bat. But Knott was a one-off. In my view, you pick a keeper the way you pick a bowler: to take wickets and win matches. This dreary Test match was



French: superb dismissals

cheered by two dismissals by French that no batsman in gauntlets would have managed.

The first was his catch of dismiss Javed Miandad, the Pakistani danger man. Standing up to a medium-pacer is a serious test of a keeper's skills.

To take any catch standing up is pretty good going. But to take one off a medium-pacer off the bottom edge of the bat with the ball changing direction and veering sharply downwards - that is rather like catching a cup of coffee without spilling a drop.

And then there was the run out of Salim Malik. It was the result of brilliant fielding from DeFreitas but it needed brilliant keeping to make it work. For the throw was beautiful, French gathered it, running and stopping on the ball volley. Many keepers tend to throw their heads up when taking such a ball: after all you are quite likely to get it in the face.

French kept his head down and gathered it perfectly. The next mistake you can make is to try and move the ball before you have got hold of it properly but French was too cool for that. He gathered it cleanly and broke the wicket as if his gauntlets had been attached to the stumps by an unusually strong piece of elastic.

These two wickets could have turned the course of a cricket match played in a decent climate. That is what wicketkeepers are for.

French also scored a fifty, which will be good for everybody's nerves. It means he will stay in the side for a while. To pick a mere batsman to keep wicket when you include two spin bowlers seems to me a particularly silly way to go about playing cricket but you never count the wickets that don't fall on the scoreboard, but not the errors of wicketkeepers. Only their runs get written down.

The wicketkeepers' real contribution is invisible, impenetrable to the statistics and often enough, to the selectors. But a Real Wicketkeeper is a jewel beyond price.

SCORAL ELECTION SPECIAL

WHO WILL WIN MOST SEATS IN THE ELECTION?
CONSERVATIVES 1/6 LABOUR 9/2 ALLIANCE 300/1
OVERALL MAJORITY

| CON | Overall Majority | LAB | CON | Overall Majority | LAB |
|-----|------------------|-----|-----|------------------|------|
| 33 | 1-4 | 25 | 14 | 79-84 | 500 |
| 33 | 7-12 | 33 | 14 | 85-90 | 750 |
| 33 | 13-18 | 33 | 16 | 91-96 | 1000 |
| 25 | 19-24 | 50 | 16 | 97-102 | 1000 |
| 25 | 25-30 | 50 | 20 | 103-108 | 1000 |
| 20 | 31-36 | 44 | 20 | 109-114 | 1000 |
| 20 | 37-42 | 100 | 25 | 115-120 | 1500 |
| 20 | 43-48 | 160 | 25 | 121-126 | 2000 |
| 20 | 49-54 | 200 | 33 | 127-132 | 2000 |
| 16 | 55-60 | 200 | 33 | 133-138 | 3000 |
| 16 | 61-66 | 300 | 33 | 139-144 | 4000 |
| 16 | 67-72 | 300 | 50 | 145-150 | 5000 |
| 14 | 73-78 | 500 | 50 | 151-156 | 5000 |

NO OVERALL MAJORITY 1/4
The speaker and N Ireland Members will be considered others for the purpose of bets on this General Election

HOW MANY SEATS WILL THE ALLIANCE WIN?
SEATS ODDS SEATS ODDS SEATS ODDS SEATS ODDS
0-5 25 11-15 8 21-25 72 31-35 4 41-45 10
6-10 14 16-20 6 26-30 72 36-40 6 46-50 18

ANY OTHER GROUPS OF 5 33

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Stock-taking time for England

From David Hands, Rugby Correspondent, Brisbane

A chastened England party left Australia and the World Cup yesterday, regretting the previous 24 hours during which defeat against Wales undid the modest achievements of the other three games but hoping that the work done by this playing party will be the start of a fresh approach to the game at home.

There were challenging words from Tom McNab, their conditioning coach, before the party left Brisbane: "The economic structure of the clubs has to change to pay decent coaches. Eventually we are going to have to do that, it is absolutely essential."

"You need to develop a cadre of people for your younger sides, probably your under-21s, who are actually trained for the job, in man management, tactics, bringing people in from other sports, who can help produce a unanimity of opinion in the playing approach."

McNab was speaking at a time when an international coaching conference has brought a large number of France's 60 or so paid technical officers to Brisbane but also from his own experience within athletics.

His work over the last year has been generally acknowledged by the England management here. "One of the biggest developments in the season has been the role played by Tom," Martin Green, the coach, said. "He has radically altered the approach to fitness."

Mike Harrison, the England captain, agreed: "People have realized there are techniques you can use to increase your speed and strength and if anyone has any sense they will be carrying them on."

Whether English rugby is ready to accept the need for

large numbers of professional staff and to drop the concept of the amateur coach is doubtful but, with leagues getting off the ground, there is a forcing house for changes in attitude which are necessary unless English rugby is content to meander far behind the advances in fitness and dietary and psychological preparations which are now a commonplace in the southern hemisphere.

It was always Green's belief that this World Cup came too soon to take advantage of the changes in the English structure now being effected.

Both he and McNab will take stock after their return about future involvement in the national game, as will Michael Weston, the manager, whose appointment of chair-

man of selectors now ends, though I understand unofficially that Weston and Green are prepared to offer themselves for service next season.

Rather than the normal written report, the management team here plan a physical presentation to the Rugby Football Union at which they can address the committee and reply directly to questions raised. "It has been a tremendous event and the committee ought to hear about it, what it was like from the inside," Green said.

"I think it's important for people to play each other more, not just within the context of the five nations championship. It's important that our players are exposed to developments in world rugby,

wherever they may be, more than they are at present."

"The game in Europe is played in a large number of countries and the more matches we have, the more we can test players on tour. The problem is to fit these into the domestic year."

The RFU is already looking at more B internationals and there will be under-21 internationals before long.

It is a hard feat of life and one which will be unacceptable to some of today's players and many of today's clubs, upon whose activities the game in England hinges.

But if the head of the game, the international side, is weak the body below is more likely to contract in standards, and, eventually, in numbers.

More World Cup, page 52

Marathon hand-out

Sydney (Reuter) - Tani Ruckie, the first woman home in Sunday's Australian marathon, yesterday received Aus\$5,000 (£2,200) compensation after becoming the first marathon runner to be disqualified for using a pacer.

Race officials said a video tape showed Miss Ruckie had been paced through the second half of the race by Joe Buttigieg, who joined the marathon illegally.

Money boost

Prize money for the Croft Original British Open Horse Trials Championship at Gatcombe Park has been increased to above the £10,000 level.



Hingsen: saving himself

Taking a rest

Bonn (Reuter) - The West German decathlete, Juergen Hingsen and Siegfried Wentz, will miss next month's European Cup so that they can recover from injuries before taking on Daley Thompson in the world athletics championships.

Knee surgery

The West Indian Test batsman, Gordon Greenidge, of Hampshire, had an exploratory operation yesterday on his injured right knee. A specialist removed a piece of cartilage from the knee joint and Greenidge is expected to be back in action in two weeks.

Gowman in

The Welsh hockey captain, Andy Gowman, is included in their squad of 15 for the match against Kenya in Cardiff on Saturday. Gowman had earlier withdrawn from the squad because of business commitments.

WALLES SQUAD: C. Adams (Riesling), S. Rose (Ole Kingstons), D. Gutter (Ben Rhydydd), G. Dale-Smith (Swansea), M. Williams (Cardiff), A. Western (Southampton), J. Rice (Hounslow), D. Hecker (Trojan), M. Lewis (Wichbourne), D. Thomas (Southdown), P. Bowden (Southdown), D. Knapp (Cardiff), T. Reynolds (Lancaster Western), A. Gowman (Cardiff), J. Doherty (Colwyn).

Labour Fin

Labour's financial policy...

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